

Bay Area Reporter

VOL. XXV No. 23 June 8, 1995

395 NINTH ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

Boys to Mann Act: FBI Probes Bay Area Teen

...As Seattle area youth takes bus on info superhighway

by Dennis Conkin
and Mike Salinas

Gay leaders say recent news reports of a runaway boy's journey to the Bay Area show the true homophobic bias of the news media and federal law agents. The story that a San Francisco male mailed a bus ticket to 16-year-old Daniel Montgomery of Maple Valley, Washington, prompted a Federal Bureau of Investigation probe and garnered much local and national media coverage.

The facts of the case, as originally presented, were that the San Franciscan was an unidentified "older man" who used the Internet name Damian Star, who "lured" the boy across state lines; an FBI spokesman acknowledged that Star was being investigated for possible violations of the federal Mann Act, which prohibits the interstate transportation of minors for sexual acts.

Both the media and the investigators were later surprised to learn Star is himself underage - and, according to the *Seattle Times*, was kicked

out of his house for being gay. "He's just like me," Montgomery told *Times* reporter Susan Byrne.

"The individual alleged to have enticed Montgomery down here from the Seattle area is a juvenile," FBI spokesperson George Grotz told the *Bay Area Reporter* Tuesday. So the results of our investigation have been sent to Seattle for a decision," Grotz said.

Grotz declined to release Star's identity, age, or neighborhood of residence to the *B.A.R.*

"At this point in time, all I can say is we have identified the individual known as Damian Star and he is a juvenile," he said.

A Star on-line

Montgomery and the San Francisco teen originally made contact in a gay chat room on America On-Line, a Virginia-based computer information and communications service. AOL terminated Star's account for "sexual solicitation" and cooperated with law enforcement officials after it learned of

Continued on page 18

Gay Baseball Great Glenn Burke Dies at 42

by Dennis Conkin

Funeral services were held in Oakland on Monday, June 5 for former professional baseball player Glenn Burke, 42, who died on May 30 of complications related to AIDS.

Burke died two days after he was hospitalized at Fairmont Hospital in San Leandro.

During his four year major league career with the Oakland Athletics and the Los Angeles Dodgers, Burke had a .237 batting average and played in 225 major league games, according to Reuters news service.

While playing center field for the Dodgers, Burke came out in a 1978 interview with the magazine *Inside Sports*. A short time later, after considerable national notoriety, he was traded to the A's.

He retired from the A's in 1979, but changed his mind. After an injury during training the following spring, he was assigned to the minors and retired from baseball for good.

In interviews about his baseball career, Burke spoke of the intense homophobia and anti-gay

prejudice he encountered - from pressure by a manager to get married while he was with the Dodgers, to taunts of "faggot" by then-Oakland A's manager Billy Martin.

"I never hung out with my teammates," Burke told a *New York Times* reporter in 1984. "No one would say anything to me. And I got used to the fag jokes. You heard them everywhere. I knew who I was, I was no sissy. I was a man."

"It just so happened that I lived in a different world."

Well known in the Castro neighborhood before he was signed to the majors, Burke became active in the gay softball league and played for many years for the Pendulum Bar team after his retirement.

A year before he died, Burke's mother Alice said that the prejudice and hatred Burke received in the majors took its toll on her son.

"That was his life, baseball, from a child up. They weren't very nice to him after all that. He ended up on drugs. I don't feel he was treated very well by Billy Martin. I don't think that man could

Continued on page 12

Mondelli Files Civil Suit Vs. Freeman, UCSF, SFGH

by Kent Brandley

Mario A. J. Mondelli, through his attorney Jon E. Hill, has filed a civil suit against Dean Alton Freeman, M.D., the City and County of San Francisco, and the regents of the University of California. His suit stems from what he alleges was an unprovoked attack by Freeman last July that left him with multiple wounds from a camping ax.

While no dollar amount is specified, the suit asks for general damages according to proof, special damages according to proof, interest, cost of the suit, "other and further relief deemed proper by the court and punitive damages according to proof." It also asks for loss of income based on Mondelli's earning capacity.

The Superior Court suit, filed May 1, also holds responsible 75 other "John Does" who will be named eventually in what promises to be a long drawn-out legal battle. The next legal move - considered routine - is a status conference on the case, set for September 29 at 8:30 a.m.

Freeman now faces a 15 count criminal action, an action by the California Medical Board to revoke his license, and the civil suit - which claims the UC San Francisco/San Francisco General Hospital-employed psychiatrist

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Photo: Phil Migliarese Jr.

Wobbly Wolf

Recent Golden Dildeaux award winner Mr. Leather San Francisco 1995 Wolf Mirasol hangs on during the June 3 bull-riding competition at the Golden State Gay Rodeo at the Cow Palace this past weekend.

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Fundies Making It Hot For KOFY Over Pride Parade

Phone Tree Callers Threaten \$\$ Reprisal

By Kent Brandley

Callers who profess a particular religious bent are harassing and threatening staff members at KOFY 20, because the television station plans to film the 1995 Pride Parade "A World Without Borders" as a 25th anniversary salute to the gay and lesbian community. Karen Provenza, promotion director at the San Francisco television station, confirmed to the *B.A.R.* that after KOFY announced it would broadcast the parade, someone initiated "some kind of phone tree" among people committed to harassing the station

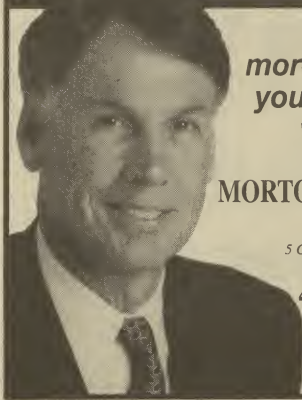
and threatening economic reprisal.

After the calls took on the appearance of an organized campaign, Provenza said, the station began keeping track of the calls: thus far there have been 120 opposed to filming and broadcasting the parade, and only 15 in support.

So far the callers have included two women who claimed to be "reformed" lesbians - who said they had now found "the right way with God" and called homosexuality "demonic," Provenza said.

In an interview Tuesday, Continued on page 4

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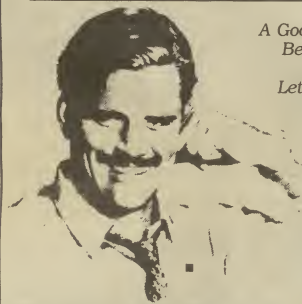
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COMMUNITY NEWS

SF Activists Back Thalidomide as AIDS Treatment

Buyers Club to meet with FDA about possible deal

by Mary Ann Swissler

Bay Area AIDS activist Jeff Getty appeared on the CBS television program *60 Minutes* Sunday, June 4 to discuss what he believes is a promising anti-AIDS treatment, but after viewing the program he said he was disappointed it was just a "hit piece" against the drug he was advocating, thalidomide.

Thalidomide was banned a generation ago by the federal Food and Drug Administration, when it was discovered women who took it as an anti-depressant during pregnancy gave birth to babies with severe birth defects. The images of those children, usually born with flipper-like limbs, shocked the nation and caused the FDA to set up a stricter drug testing apparatus.

Three decades later researchers have discovered uses for thalidomide beyond its anti-depressant effects, and an increasing number of activists believe it can counter TB- and AIDS-related wasting syndrome. They want to see it treated as any other promising therapy, but say its notorious history (and the humiliating blunder it still represents for the FDA) has led to the agency's reluctance to reasonably consider it. Getty said the *60 Minutes* piece illustrated the problem — and worsened it.

Although correspondent Leslie Stahl had interviewed Rockefeller University

researcher Gilla Kaplan about her proof of the therapeutic value of thalidomide in fighting leprosy, and leukemia patient Mona Martin told of rebounding from her deathbed after taking it, the bulk of the piece was devoted to images of people who had been born with birth defects caused by thalidomide.

"It was a sensationalistic piece," Getty told the *B.A.R.* "CBS really made a freak show." But he acknowledged he had expected as much after seeing that people with birth defects were heavily featured in the televised promos for the piece.

Where can I get thalidomide?

Even so, Getty said, when he spoke with the producer of the piece the day after it ran, he learned "the phone was ringing off the wall."

"And she said all the callers were asking the same thing: where can I get this drug?"

Several San Francisco PWAs already know the answer to that question: the Healing Alternatives Foundation, a buyers club in the Castro, began distributing thalidomide June 2. FDA representatives and ACT UP/Golden Gate are scheduled to meet this month to hash out an agreement on the subject, according to Matthew Sharp, the foundation's managing director. Distribution to late stage AIDS patients through

buyers clubs is important, Sharp told the *B.A.R.*, because even if thalidomide received immediate FDA approval it would take another seven years to become commercially available.

Sharp added that the daily maximum dosage is much cheaper than most AIDS wasting syndrome treatment programs. "That's part of what's so encouraging," he said.

Virge Parks of ACT UP/Golden Gate told the *B.A.R.* that, even if the FDA were to give approval, female late-stage AIDS patients would be barred from any clinical trials since the drug is a known cause of birth defects.

The fear that women with AIDS might take the drug and have deformed babies was given too much credence by *60 Minutes*, Getty said. Part of the segment had profiled a Brazilian woman with leprosy who took an unprescribed dose of her husband's thalidomide, with tragic yet predictable results. Getty said stricter dispensing rules and better patient education in America would make it unlikely that would happen here. "We are not exactly a Third World country here," he told Stahl on-camera.

"Are we going to deny hundreds of thousands of people in the late stages of AIDS the chance to survive?" he asked. "There are a lot of drugs that are dangerous to pregnant women, and they're not banned in the United States." ▼

Lambda Letters Tops 100,000 Letters; Seeks New Members

by Kent Brandley

An independent, non-profit lobbying group based in Northern California, the Lambda Letters Project, has brought the voice of the people — gay people — to elected officials and leaders in private industry.

According to Boyce Hinman, administrator of the project, more than 100,000 letters stating progressive attitudes on women's issues, lesbian/gay/bisexual issues, AIDS/HIV issues, and issues of concern to people of color have been generated and delivered since Lambda Letters began in 1989.

Each month, the project's newsletter provides information on legislation, and includes sample

letters on current subjects. Lambda collects the letters and delivers them to legislators and other public officials. The organization now has members in 39 of California's 58 counties, and is recruiting additional members.

There are no dues or fees to participate; Lambda Letters Project is financed solely by contributions and by fundraising events during the year. There are no paid employees and all work is done by volunteers. ▼

For information, contact Boyce Hinman at Lambda Letters Project, 6212 Silverton Way, Carmichael CA 95608; phone (916) 965-6851; e-mail BoyceH1021@aol.com.

Phoenix Takes Uniform Approach to AEF Fundraising

by Kent Brandley

Despite information that some people may have heard to the contrary, tickets are still available for the fourth annual Uniform and Leather Ball scheduled for Saturday, June 17.

The uniform and leather club will celebrate its 18 anniversary at the ball, which will include a hosted bar, a buffet dinner, and entertainment by Gail Wilson and the City Swing Band. The celebration will also serve as a kickoff for the Pride Parade, and promises to be

good for the ego: all comers will be announced as they enter and will be greeted by the receiving line of leather and uniformed men.

A rumor has inexplicably begun to circulate that the event has sold out. Phoenix spokesperson Ellic Edelson told the *B.A.R.*, even though tickets are still available at Leather Zone, Mr. S. Leather, Image Leather, and Worn Out West in the city, plus Leather Masters in San Jose. Those who would rather pick up their tickets directly from a club member

will have the chance this Saturday, June 10 beginning at 9 a.m., at a table at the corner of Castro and 18th streets.

Edelson said the event itself is set for the Green Room of the Veteran's War Memorial Building, located at 401 Van Ness, from 7 to 11 p.m. Tickets are \$35 each, and the Phoenix Club will give 50 percent of the net proceeds to the AIDS Emergency Fund. ▼

For more information call (415) 267-7665.



Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland

In the Affirmative

Former candidate for supervisor Pat Norman, now director of the Institute for Community Health Outreach, addresses a Queers for Affirmative Action rally at Castro and Market sts. June 3.

'It's About Time' for Volunteers

by Dennis Conkin

Eight AIDS service groups are collaborating in "It's About Time," a recruitment campaign for volunteers to serve in communities historically underserved by the healthcare delivery system.

The campaign is part of a two-year volunteer recruitment effort administered by the Department of Health's Office

of AIDS, and funded through federal grants. The campaign can be seen on MUNI buses and in MUNI bus shelters throughout San Francisco. Agencies participating in the program, coordinated by Shanti Project, include Gay Asian Pacific Alliance Community HIV Project; the Native American AIDS Project; The Bridge For Kids; and AIDS Services Bay View Hunters Point Foundation.

The communities targeted include women, children, transgendered people, low-income and homeless people, and substance abusers.

In addition to English-speaking volunteers, the campaign also targets Vietnamese, Japanese, Chinese, and Spanish language volunteers. ▼

For more information contact Shanti at (415) 846-2273.

Strossen To Address ACLU on Threats to Liberties

by Kent Brandley

Nadine Strossen, president of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and author of the controversial new book *Defending Pornography: Free Speech, Sex and the Fight for Women's Rights*, will address growing threats to civil liberties in a lecture here entitled "The Original Contract With America: The Bill of Rights."

The public is invited to join the ACLU San Francisco Chapter's Annual Distinguished Lecture and Silent Auction on Tuesday, June 13, at 6:30 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, located at 1187 Franklin in the city.

Dr. Strossen, a professor of law at New York Law School, is the first woman and youngest individual to be elected ACLU president. Her speech will fol-

low the silent auction, and will begin at approximately 8 p.m.

The suggested donation for the event is \$5.

For further information call (415) 979-6699.

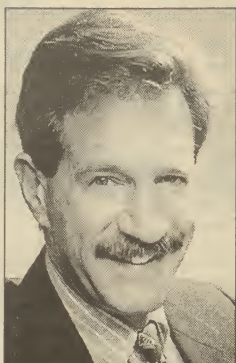
William Glenn To Head Working Assets Board

by Dennis Conkin

Continuum HIV Services Director William D. Glenn of San Francisco has been appointed chair of the board of trustees of Working Assets Common Holding. The fund was set up by Working Assets, a long distance telephone company, to funnel a percentage of customers' bills to progressive causes, including gay rights and AIDS advocacy groups.

Glenn is also currently vice president of the Board of Directors of KQED. The former San Francisco AIDS Foundation president also serves as the vice president of AIDSPAC, a controversial political action committee based in Washington, DC.

Shareholders of Working Assets are expected to approve a reorganization plan that will close two funds and combine the money into The Citizens



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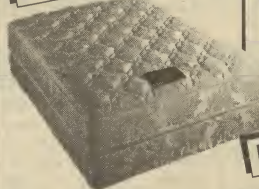
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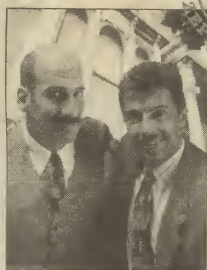
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Return of the Latino Alliance: GALA Plans Pre-Parade Party To Celebrate 20th B'day...Sort Of

by Kent Brandley

For the first time in over a decade, a united Latino/Latina group will march in San Francisco's 1995 Freedom Day Parade — "World Without Borders" — under the historic banner of GALA (the Gay Latino Alliance). To celebrate the new invigoration of the organization, GALA will mark the 20th anniversary of its founding at a pre-Pride Parade party next Thursday, June 15.

"Twenty years ago, gay Latinos and lesbians in San Francisco, San Jose, and the East Bay formed GALA to fight racism and homophobia and to build a sense of familia," organizers of the party and parade contingent said. The group had disbanded for a time, but its members now say they're back in greater numbers, with renewed vigor and vision.

GALA was founded in 1975 but was officially disbanded in 1982, according to Rafael Moral, one of GALA's currently active members. Moral said the organization had now "regrouped," but had not yet formally reorganized. Jose de Leon, one of the organization's original founders, told the B.A.R., "We're trying to get some new blood."

The organization was definitely the first of its kind for gay/lesbian Latinos and Latinas in Northern California, accord-



Photo: Rick Gerhart

Founding fathers (l to r): Everardo Gonzalez (performing at the June 15 benefit), Jesus Barragan, Matu Feliciano, Rafael Moral, Jose de Leon and Carlos Todd.

ing to Jesus Barragan, and perhaps the first in the nation. "We were the pioneers in the Spanish speaking gay community," said Barragan, another original member. Then, seven years later, "The feeling was that we did what we set out to do" so members disbanded GALA. Now, he and other gay and lesbian Latinos and Latinas believe, it is time to get reinvolved.

All the proceeds from Thursday night's fundraising party at El Rio, located at 3158 Mission near Cesar Chavez Street (formerly Army), will be used to make a video documentary of GALA's history and cultural impact on San Francisco. A \$5 donation at the door will be requested, and a beef and chicken fajitas buffet will be

optional at \$3.

Augie Robles and Valentin Aguirre, who co-directed the video *Viva 16* about the lives of young gay Latinos on 16th Street, will also be asked to do the documentary on GALA, according to Barragan. He said the fundraiser, which runs from 7 p.m. to midnight, and the subsequent film will serve as "a memorial tribute to those that have died."

Barragan credited the group *Proyecto Contra Sida por Vida* with unlimited support for the event and possible reorganization of GALA. "We could not have done it without them," he said. ▼

For more information, call the GALA Hotline at (415) 575-1648.

SF's Favorite Winds To Blow Free Tuesday

by Kent Brandley

The San Francisco Winds of Freedom (the seated version of the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band) will treat the public to a free concert this Tuesday, June 13. The Winds of Freedom are directed by Nancy Corporon, and the forthcoming concert will feature Bill Nemoyten, the new conductor of City Swing, as guest conductor.

The concert will begin at 8:15 p.m. at Bethany United Methodist Church, located at 1268 Sanchez

Street at Clipper. Early arrival is suggested; the Winds of Freedom are extremely popular with the community and routinely fill concerts to capacity, even when they charge for admission.

The Winds of Freedom are taking a break from Pride month parades to give the concert, at which they promise a broad array of musical offerings, from classical Tchaikovsky to a swinging Glenn Miller medley. ▼

For more information call (415) 554-0402.

Fundies

Continued from page 1

KOFY's owner and president Jim Gabbert told the B.A.R. the station would not back off from filming the parade.

Feeding homophobia

Gabbert said he is convinced "Homophobia is alive and well," not only across the nation, but right here in San Francisco. "And hate radio has contributed," Gabbert said, specifically naming KSFO and Gordon Liddy.

"All of a sudden it's feeding them hatred," he complained, observing that "Pat Robertson is making a fortune on homophobia," as are other members of the religious right who cobble together television clips to create videos of the parade "making it look like Sodom and Gomorrah."

KOFY 20 intends to portray the community as making a positive contribution with a happy, carnival atmosphere. Some "serious and significant" one-, two-, and three-minute spots will be interspersed in the parade broadcast, he promised, to show the work done by groups such as Project Open Hand, for example, plus an interview with the mother of a teenage boy from Walnut Creek who committed suicide because was rejected and ridiculed for being gay.

Gabbert said he expects the harassment tactics to increase as the Pride celebration approaches. Lately the station has run dignified spots about the event, calling attention to "The Gay Freedom Day Parade on television — It's about time!" with photos from previous parades and comments such as "I'm proud to march with my lesbian daughter."

No beer with KOFY on Gay Day

Gabbert was also critical of "a lot of closet advertisers [who are] reluctant to take a stand," particularly of some beer companies who are after the macho work force limiting their advertising dollars to safe bets.

"They don't want the general market to know they are supporting the gay community," he said. "They try to reach out, but put it in reverse and back off real fast" when the heat is on.

Despite the advertising losses, and the significant costs of filming with a production truck and five cameras plus crews and staff, Gabbert told the B.A.R., "We're pleased to be doing it."

In retrospect, Gabbert observed, filming and broadcasting the Pride Parade has proven to be "a gutsy thing to do." He said he will co-host the show — and while he is hoping for the best, he is preparing for the worst.

"They're crazy," he said of the far right.

"They no longer have the Communists to blame for everything so the homosexuals make a convenient target." ▼

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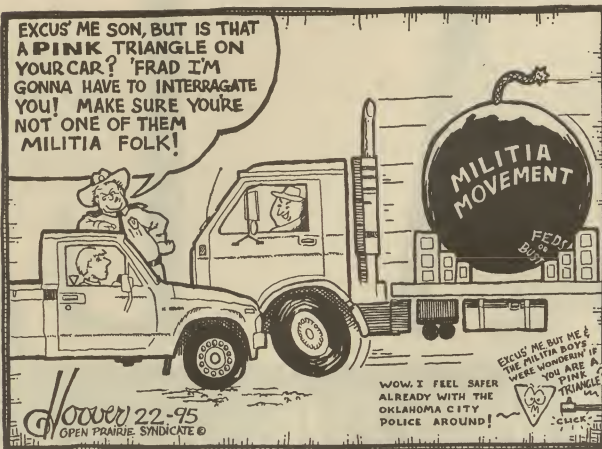
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Vol. XXV No. 23 • June 8, 1995

Next Issue Out: June 16

Next Deadline: June 9

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EDITORIAL

Internetalized Homophobia

Anyone who thinks it isn't a crime to be gay in San Francisco, or at least a shame, must have slept through the recent media's frenzy over possible sexual exploitation of American youth by older gay lecher internet users. Even Bay Area media, who should know better, went wild on the subject after a kid from Seattle ran away from home to be with a new San Francisco friend he met online.

The dailies' adjectives got so lurid they sounded like the worst excesses of Barbara Cartland or Robert Dole: the *Examiner's* "prowling through the internet" was our favorite phrase, which sounds as though slimy masturbating perverts can crawl through phone lines directly into the bedrooms of hapless boys. Only the subsequent discovery that the "older" fella was also a minor has apparently kept the prowling forces of censorship and homophobia from rounding up and interrogating every queer who's ever been into a gay chat room.

(It may be necessary to explain here that the service links thousands of computers together so users can browse through reference works, play games, or - most popularly - discuss whatever they feel like, either in large "lobbies" or in smaller "rooms" that members establish. Rooms created by AOL subscribers have included topics like "f4f-nomen," "TampaF4submissiveM," and a perennial favorite, "str8M4str8M," but they also include "Christianfellowship" and "OklahomaCityAftermath" - conversations people have face to face and over the phone millions of times each day.)

The best description of chat rooms is still "CB radio with typing," and just as CBs - remember them? - were sometimes used to initiate sex with truckers (and other CB owners who pretended to be truckers), AOL and the rest of the computer services are occasionally used to snare sex with fellow computer owners; can anyone doubt that Morse code and semaphore have also been used for similar, um, ends? Fortunately no one ever

rushed through laws to make CBs or semaphore flags illegal. The problem, we fear, is that the internet may not fare as well. And its continued survival is very important.

It's important to remember that when this country's founders guaranteed a free press, they meant to protect more than the actual printing device. What they were also saying was that we must protect even those printers who churned out the least popular things imaginable, using the device capable of spreading their controversial views to the greatest number of people.

In other words, what the printing press was, the internet is now, and if the drafters of the Constitution had known it was going to be invented, you can bet your last byte they'd have specifically protected it, too.

Like the GOP's efforts to shut down public television and all public arts programs, the drive to limit the expanse of the internet is very much a gay issue. Each of those media are capable of broadening the horizons of users' viewers - and in this present atmosphere, that is frightening to conservatives. A half century ago Nazis bricked up ghettos to keep their future victims from knowing too much of what was immediately beyond their nearest window. Nowadays that would be more difficult to do with physical bricks, but the walls the right is determined to build are inspired by the same concerns that prompted Germans to fence in their Jews.

And that's why we must fight efforts to limit the 'net and shut the NEA and PBS: knowledge is power; and like every other currency that's worth anything, the far right would like to keep it all to themselves. It's up to us to make sure they don't.

Finally, at the risk of sounding anti-sex ourselves, we have to say we've noticed that the chat rooms with the sexy names are a lot more popular with the gay community than the ones devoted to politics. Pity. Our enemies are racing down an information superhighway - do we really have the time to spend hanging out in the rest stops? ▼

GUEST OPINION

In Praise of Brats

by Wendell Ricketts

For several weeks I have read, with mounting exasperation, reports in the gay and mainstream press about the disruption of Project Inform's tenth anniversary dinner by AIDS activists on May 5, 1995.

Project Inform's "institutionalization" as one of the most mainstream (in the worst sense of the word) AIDS organizations in the country is symptomatic of the disturbing erosion of grassroots AIDS activism, not just in San Francisco, but nationally. We've settled for the belief - widely advertised by large AIDS service organizations like PI - that activist "insiders" are doing us all a world of good. But maybe we ought to rethink that assumption. Maybe "insiders" and "activists" have jobs that are mutually exclusive.

I'm sure it's swell, for example, that Martin Delaney is best pals with Tony Fauci (and Robert Gallo, and the rest of the big boys). But remember activism? Remember when Larry Kramer called Tony Fauci a "Nazi"? Remember when any self-respecting activist would have cringed to think that an organization that serves people with AIDS and HIV would honor someone like the director of the foot-dragging, money-gobbling NIAID? Has the AIDS treatment and research situation improved so dramatically that we need no longer be wary of the medical establishment and its aristocracy? Yes, perhaps we have to work with them, but must we sleep with them as well?

PI has accepted large contributions from pharmaceutical companies, including Burroughs-Wellcome, for years. Given that, was no one dismayed when longtime PI Board member Joel Thomas was recently added to Burroughs' HIV Community Advisory Board? (Funny how you don't hear much from PI anymore about BW's AZT price-gouging.) Strikes me as a pretty good reason for a little disruption.

Finally, there's the DNCB issue: The ACT UP/Golden Gate representative, who attempted, in his May 18th B.A.R. column, to distance his group (the good activists) from those unruly DNCB Now! and ACT UP/San Francisco folks (the bad activists), demonstrated an irony that should be clear to anyone whose memory extends beyond the last 15 minutes. What's essential about street activism is that, as part of a system of checks and balances, it counteracts complacency and gratuitous respect for authority. Once upon a time, Project Inform happily engaged ACT UP members as its own personal Rottweilers, using them to threaten demonstrations and bad press if drug company officials didn't toe the line. Now, it seems, PI thinks it is beyond the scrutiny of activists it can't control.

What is most maddening about the response to the zap is that Delaney and Project Inform refuse to take responsibility for the fury and frustration they've created - through sheer elitism and strong-arm strategies of their own - among DNCB activists. By attacking the "tactics" and "personalities" of DNCB activism, PI has managed to avoid scrutiny of its own agenda (PI's widely touted community-based trial of DNCB is a sham) and has disregarded one of the most popular and least expensive HIV-related treatments available. (Between DNCB Now! and Healing Alternatives Foundation, some 200 DNCB kits are sold or given away free each month in the Bay Area. In other words, more people have "tested" DNCB over the last several years than were ever enrolled in the trials that resulted in the release of AZT.) Collecting data on the individuals who use DNCB would be one of the most beneficial tasks a group like Project Inform - which aggressively championed ribavirin and Compound Q in its "community-based" past - could perform.

Ultimately, the question of whether DNCB Now! (or any other activist group) should or shouldn't have disrupted PI's anniversary dinner is a red herring. The real question is whether we're going to let powerful, mainstream AIDS organizations be the death of activism.

Maybe ACT UP/San Francisco members are raucous renegades. Maybe DNCB Now! activists are a bunch of tantrum-throwing brats. But not so long ago the "brats" and "renegades" in our community were anyone who demanded attention to AIDS or who insisted that the status quo wasn't good enough. If some AIDS groups have now aligned themselves with the status quo, that's all the more reason to make sure they have a hard time eating their supper - even when that supper costs \$125 a plate. ▼

The debate on the age of consent

In response to a letter from Burton Weiss, who asserted that man-boy sex is not at all the same as man-man sex, Thomas Crocker wrote that he is "tired of hearing ignorant or dishonest gay men deny the traditional place of youthful sexuality in the gay community." (Letters, May 18.) Crocker added that "to deny the traditional place of man/boy love in the gay community is to deny the traditional place of the gay community in the greater society."

If by "tradition" Crocker means that sex between adults and children of the same sex is or should be more common or more accepted than sex between adults and children of the opposite sex, I'd say he's wrong. Furthermore, does any practice or attitude merit support simply by virtue of its being "traditional?" Most gay people I know aren't wild about the "traditional place of the gay community in the greater society," marked as it is by secrecy, oppression and violence.

If Crocker thinks age-of-consent laws are wrong, or the age of consent is too high in the U.S., he and like-minded individuals face a tough debate with the many people, gay and straight, who disagree. Certainly, that debate should not be silenced or ignored simply because it is uncomfortable for some. However, because homophobes continue to perpetuate the myth that homosexuals molest (or seek to molest) children, those of us who work for equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are wise to emphasize the distinction between such rights and the right of adults and children to have sex with one another.

Ben Carlson
San Francisco

About the present cause célèbre

Kudos to ACT UP/Golden Gate for the very insightful and thoughtful treatise concerning the ACT UP/San Francisco action on May 5 at the 10th anniversary celebration of Project Inform. (What they were celebrating is far beyond my intelligence.)

Never have I seen the position of AIDS, Inc. delineated more clearly than by ACT UP/Golden Gate. Political correctness is their thesis, and they weaved their tapestry beautifully around it. It is almost spiritual to see the banner of drug activism being passed from the original activists of ACT UP/NY to the present supporters of this erroneous paradigm.

Of course, why even bother to consider boosting the depressed cell-mediated immunity that is the hallmark of AIDS. Interestingly, Toni Fauci of NIH infamously stated in 1985 that "The diagnosis of AIDS is a clinical one, defined as the occurrence of an illness predictive of a defect in cell-mediated immunity occurring in an individual with no known cause for diminished resistance to that disease." (1985 Annual Review of Immunology)

It is much simpler to find drugs that attempt to stop the virus, and, magically, everything will be all right. Correct me if I'm wrong, but hasn't that been done for over ten years with the dead and dying increasing exponentially? It certainly would help if they knew how HIV caused AIDS, but why worry about trivialities, just put drugs-into-bodies.

The present cause célèbre is to attack those that propose boosting the defective cell-mediated immune (CMI) system in AIDS. The AIDS, Inc. attack focus is the political correctness of ACT UP/SF and DNCB Now! And, to state that there is no science behind DNCB, a proven CMI booster, only shows the gross ignorance of the "drugs-into-bodies" activists. These misguided souls are nothing more than drug company trailblazers for highly toxic and immunosuppressive antiretrovirals that suppress cellular immunity.

Italo Calvino, in the following quote from *Invisible Cities*, expressed the differences between the "drugs-into-bodies" activists and the "immune-booster" activists quite beautifully. For those that accept hell, the path is clear; for those of us that continue to see the hell that surrounds us, the path is more difficult but much more rewarding.

"The hell of the living is not something that will arrive in the future; if hell exists, then it is that we are already living in day by day, that we form being together. There are two ways for not suffering from hell. The first results easy for many people: accept hell and become part of it to the point that you will not see it any more. The second way is risky and requires continuous attention and learning: find out and recognize what, in the middle of hell, does not belong to hell, and help it to last and give room to it."

Billi Goldberg
AIDS and DNCB Activist
San Francisco

The difference between ACT UPs

The Commentary article in your May 18th issue on the ACT UP groups certainly helped clear up some ongoing confusion. Through this article I understood that there are a number of different ACT UP groups and they are quite different in their approach to dealing with the AIDS crisis.

Over the past few years, as an HIV positive person and as a doctor dealing with patients with AIDS in my practice, I had attended forums sponsored by ACT UP and had read a number of articles written by and about this group. I have always been impressed with ACT UP's consistent dedication to getting new and cutting-edge AIDS therapy information out to the community.

Therefore, it was with great surprise when I read in your May 11th issue that an "ACT UP" member had disrupted a Project Inform dinner. I now understand that ACT UP Golden Gate, the group that I have long been impressed with, had nothing to do with that disruption. I myself have used DNCB and have met with people who espouse this as the "ultimate solution" to AIDS. But I cannot agree with the DNCB-NOW group's single-minded solution to a very complex disease. I also take objection to their renegade use of the name "ACT UP."

ACT UP Golden Gate, on the other hand, seems to be a truly dedicated group of individuals who have pursued the latest in medical knowledge concerning AIDS on a consistent, ongoing basis and have been committed to getting this information out to the general public.

ACT UP Golden Gate has been great at presenting information in a thorough yet comprehensible manner. I have personally gained a lot of understanding of the complex relationships between the FDA, drug companies, the medical establishment and the patient. I have found their willingness to confront the FDA and drug companies as both courageous and important in changing the overall climate of drug accessibility. I congratulate ACT UP Golden Gate on their past work and thank them from the bottom of my heart for all the important work they have done to advance the medical care for people with AIDS!

David Mahon, D.C.
San Francisco

History of Arlo

Political reporter Wayne Friday suggests that everyone in "our community" should vote for Arlo Smith because he and his wife walked the precincts for Harvey Milk. (B.A.R. 5/18)

Friday's attempt to rally gay progressive votes for Smith is at best disingenuous. Harvey Milk earned respect as a political activist and a defender of civil rights. Harvey Milk would no doubt condemn the treachery, abuse of power, and infringement of civil liberties that have earmarked the DA's Office since Smith's ascent to power.

Does Friday suggest that Milk would condone: Firing 20-year veteran of the DA's Office and Chief of Homicide Prosecutions Bill Fazio the day he announced his candidacy for office against Mr. Smith. Fazio has filed a federal civil rights violation lawsuit naming Smith and the City of San Francisco as defendants in his politically motivated termination.

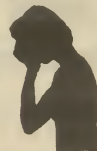
Hiring political consultant John Whitehurst to run Mr. Smith's fifth re-election campaign. Whitehurst was at the center of an investigation by the Special Prosecutions Unit of the DA's Office for orchestrating a political "hit piece" against two liberal S.F. Supervisors. When Supervisor Terence Hallinan (one of the targets of the hit piece) made repeated requests for Mr. Smith to proceed with the prosecution of the suspects, Smith responded: "I only prosecute politicians for serious felonies."

Refusing to prosecute city bureaucrats, politicians and their friends even when presented with irrefutable proof of theft and wrongdoing, such as medical examiner Dr. Boyd Stephens, who deposited checks made payable to the City of San Francisco into his own private checking account, or the sweetheart plea bargain arrangement given Angela Alioto's friend, Peter Roland, after he swindled San Francisco residents out of hundreds of thousands of dollars, or bargaining with the Anti Defamation League, allowing them to pay \$75,000 to avoid prosecution for illegally obtaining police records and spying on "radical groups" such as the Harvey Milk Club and ACT UP.

Mr. Friday - who is a District Attorney's investigator, sits on the Police Commission and is the B.A.R. political editor - commenting that Mr. Smith is "one of the most decent people in public service" says much about current San Francisco government and politics from the inside.

Francisco Rivero
San Francisco

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LETTERS

Bacon and eggs

The story goes that once upon a time, the professor asked the students to prepare a paper regarding the differences between "Committed" and "Involved." The next day, while returning the papers to the class, the professor admitted that she was quite frankly dumbfounded by one student's paper, which merely had the words "bacon & eggs." She called out the student's name and asked for an explanation. "It's quite simple," the student replied: "in the case of the eggs, the chicken was merely involved. But in the case of the bacon, the pig was definitely committed."

We have examples of commitment and involvement right here in our own community:

Commitment:

The other night while alighting MUNI at Castro Station, I stumbled across the grand opening of Noah's Bagels on the Castro. Noah, the founder of Noah's Bagels, was seemingly pontificating typical public relations rhetoric, etc. However, upon listening more carefully, the sincerity and commitment truly came across. What contributions had already been and will be made to benefit AIDS-related organizations, their recognition of the need for local businesses to "give back" to their supporters, acknowledgment of the heinous emotional impact on the community, and that collectively, this goodwill will bring a ray of hope to the dread AIDS crisis. He also added that bread in many cultures has always been the symbol of life. The spark of life that Noah presented was genuine commitment and refreshingly positive.

On the other hand, Involvement:

Yesterday, a friend of mine and I went to S & C Ford. My friend has resigned himself to the fact that he needs to sell his auto due to health conditions, and to pay for unpaid medical bills, prescriptions, rent, etc. Upon entering the showroom with the automobile, our salesperson recalled the conversation my friend had telephoned earlier regarding his unfortunate circumstances. After merely glancing at the car with an associate, he told my friend that his car was "trashed" and offered an amount slightly above scrap value.

Aside from minor dings and normal paint wear and tear, the car has a new transmission, is mechanically sound, with the interior being in excellent condition. The disparity was thousands below the current Blue Book retail worst condition quote. Our salesperson and his associate never started the engine, or even looked under the hood. "It will cost a couple of thousand dollars to bring up the value," they claimed. When we asked, "Your cost or our cost?" our salesperson proceeded to insult our intelligence by saying that it doesn't matter. He claimed that the S & C Body Shop makes no money, which of course is absurd. Following our salesperson's and his associate's Machiavellian responses, our salesperson stood up from his desk, gave us an icy "good-bye," turned his back and walked away exchanging offensive slurs with his associate.

This is barely involvement. Token gay advertising and/or gay-related donations are merely line items on an obligatory operating plan, something that will generate business by fraternizing the local gay community.

In summary, my friend was not looking for a special deal because of his personal crisis. He simply expected to be treated with respect, dignity, and above all, honesty. The insults, indifference, and ensuing rude behavior was unnecessary and unacceptable. It will be most interesting to see if B.A.R. prints this letter at the risk of losing a sponsor's very reliable advertising dollars.

Jerry A. Carlock, Jr.
San Francisco

[Glad to.]

Outing AIDS

In his May 25th letter to the B.A.R., Mark Fisher expresses concerns about the prominent mention of "AIDS" on flags, signs, and a banner at the new AHP Castro Center, which opened in April in the old BofA building. He wonders: "Did anyone think to ask if this display of the constancy of AIDS in our lives is a good idea? Did anyone think to ask about the fear that such imagery may have on passersby and residents?" Mr. Fisher's concern about the enormity of AIDS in our community is reasonable, but we at the AIDS Health Project believe his wish to shroud the word will fail to achieve his goal of protecting the spirit.

We agree that the mental health of gay men, lesbians, and the whole Castro neighborhood is closely entwined with the epidemic, and particularly for gay men, identity is often linked in an uncomfortable way to HIV disease. We do not agree, however, that the appropriate and healthy response to this situation is to erase AIDS from the face of the

Castro or from the consciousness of the community. On the contrary, we expressly seek to assert this relationship in no uncertain terms. It is only by acknowledging AIDS — ironically a task that some in the community have been loathe to accept — that we can put the epidemic into proper perspective, to pay it attention appropriate to its magnitude without allowing it to define us either as individuals or as a community.

Prominent signage is most obviously about making it easy and safe to access HIV-related services. While everyone seems to acknowledge the importance of these services, over the past decade we have succeeded in hiding them. It's time for HIV-related services to come out in our community: People dealing with HIV disease should be able to view this display as a visible affirmation of the support they deserve from the community.

Will such a prominent display turn away some people? Possibly. Long years of reticence — inspired by discrimination and fears about confidentiality — have led most of us to assume that silence is golden. While we at AHP respect and understand this response, we question whether it is a healthy one. We challenge the community to make its support audible. If we can't say the word "AIDS" in the Castro, how can we expect our President to say it in Washington? At the same time, we at AHP do our utmost to ensure our clients' confidentiality and join with the community to continue to advocate for the enforcement of strong anti-discrimination laws.

By demystifying AIDS — by outing it — we offer each other permission to talk about it, and as importantly, permission to set boundaries around it. By saying the AHP Castro Center is the home of the AIDS Health Project, we let people know that this is a place where they can talk, where they can get their needs met, where they can confront their demons, and where they can let them go.

The AIDS Health Project's Castro Center is notable not simply because it is the first HIV-related multi-service center in the Castro, but also because it is the first HIV resource to announce its relationship to AIDS on its facade. If this facilitates an exchange of opinions about HIV services, about living in the heart of an epidemic, about grief and loss and anger, this is good. I truly thank Mr. Fisher for his thoughtful comments and invite the community to follow his lead and continue to talk about the place of AIDS in our lives.

James W. Dilley, MD
Executive Director
UCSF AIDS Health Project

Staying true to memorial's purpose

I attended the AIDS Memorial Candlelight Vigil on Sunday, May 21 as I have done every year since its inception. I wouldn't miss it, as I have lost so many friends to this dreadful disease.

The event gives me an opportunity to reflect on those many lives and how they touched me, and to participate with others in recognizing them and remembering them.

But for the last two years, things have been different, and I write to express my disappointment with the organizers' format for the program. It used to be that the event's focus was a memorial to those lost, including a moment of silence as we all held hands and spoke the names of loved ones passed. Now it seems the attention is mainly on rewarding and recognizing current participants in our battle against this disease. While I have no objection to doing that, I came away this year feeling an incompleteness. What happened to our moment of silence?

We couldn't even place our burning candle in a collective tribute, as in the past. Somehow dumping mine in a trash can just didn't do it for me, as we were instructed.

I know I'm not alone in my reaction as others have expressed similar feelings to me. I just say to the organizers, "Please don't lose sight of the purpose of this event and the meaning and importance so many of us attach to it."

Bruce Threlkeld
San Francisco

Letters policy

The Bay Area Reporter welcomes your signed and mailed letters to the editor; anonymous and faxed letters will not be published. Please include your mailing address and telephone number so we may verify your letter — this information will not be published. We prefer that letters be typewritten and double-spaced. Handwritten letters will be considered for publication only if clearly legible.

Letters may be edited for length or other appropriate consideration; the B.A.R. reserves the right to refuse publication of any letter.

Let the race begin

When retiring Assembly Speaker Willie Brown finally made his candidacy for mayor official over the weekend, the battle for Room 200 at City Hall was very quickly off and running.

Even more than Roberta Achtenberg, Supervisor Angela Alioto probably has the most to lose with Brown's declaration; many were quietly predicting a Jordan-Alioto December runoff

Commentary

until Willie got into it. Alioto is already sending as many political hard punches to Willie Brown's midsection as she can, and although some of Brown's supporters are saying that "Alioto and Roberta are no longer factors in this thing," this four-way race for mayor will be a free-for-all barn burner, if nothing else.

Brown strategists are sure that Jordan already has a spot in the runoff locked up; they fully expect to see the mayor as their December opponent and will likely pretty much ignore Angela and Roberta. But will Achtenberg and Alioto be content to merely attack the Jordan administration and overlook Willie? Alioto, in particular, has already indicated that this is not the case.

My outlook for this race? With all the "maybe I will; maybe I won't" publicity that Willie has generated the past couple months, he is probably the current front-runner. However, after being slimed by his opponents on everything from referring to the mayor's job as a "hobby" to the millions he has collected from lobbyists, the other three candidates could very well turn the standings around by November.

Frank Jordan will not hand over the keys to Room 200 without a fight. A longtime powerful union official commented to me Thursday night at a police dinner at the Irish Cultural Center that "if every voter could have a ten minute one-on-one with Frank Jordan, the guy would win hands-down. He's one hell of a nice guy."

Compare Frank Jordan's low-key, nice-guy manner with the high-flying, outgoing manner of Willie Brown — one that even his friends will admit borders on arrogance at times — and we have two candidates who seemingly couldn't be more different. No one plays the political game better than Willie Brown, but after taking the public battering that's bound to come his way from all sides, this contest is definitely not going to be a cakewalk for the man who would be mayor.

"Willie hasn't been in a real campaign for over 20 years," commented one Jordan supporter. "He will soon find out that going to society parties, being constantly mentioned in Herb Caen, and being constantly seen at Stars will not be enough to defeat Frank Jordan."

Politics and people

When GOP presidential front-runner Bob Dole came to town last week to pick up a few bucks

(\$800,000 reportedly — and raised in Pete Wilson's backyard) he teasingly mentioned Dan Lungren, our esteemed state attorney general, as a possibility for a vice-presidential slot on a Dole ticket next year. Of course, it was a joke, but it presented yet another opportunity for Dole to throw a sop to the Christian right, which owns Lungren. And the fact that Dan Lungren's brother Brian is a paid consultant to the Dole campaign probably had more to do with Dole's coy comment than anything else. (As for Dole attacking the movie industry for "violence, sex, and deviancy," doesn't that sound the teeniest bit hypocritical coming from a man who is in bed with the NRA?)

Superstar Sharon Stone, speaking at an American Foundation for AIDS Research fundraiser held during the Cannes Film Festival last week, made a fan out of me (and surely, many others) when she told the overflow crowd of movie celebs from around the world that she had very recently lost her "best friend," a gay man, to AIDS. Stone begged for the resources to "defeat this horrible disease that has taken many of my good friends." The actress suddenly broke into tears and sobbed loudly as she pleaded for money at the auction/dinner, saying, "I have lost too many I love. We all have. We simply must do more." The crowd of several thousand fell to a complete hush as Stone, near col-



Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland

Willie Brown finally launches his mayoral quest last Saturday in Japantown.

Re the Doris Ward brouhaha: I know Doris. I like her a lot and think she's one of the nicest people and certainly one of the best public servants around. However, I am having trouble figuring out what preacher/politician Cecil Williams and Amos Brown meant when they somehow equated a recent expose on Doris and how she runs the assessor's office as somehow being "an attack on Willie Brown." If memory serves me right, it was Frank Jordan who appointed Ward assessor, *n'est ce pas?* Isn't it a bit early to be playing the race card in this mayoral contest, gentlemen?


U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, DA Arlo Smith, and Supes Ammiano, Migden, and Leal are among the co-chairs of Kevin Shelley's kickoff fundraiser/reception for his assembly run. For tix for and info on this June 20 event at the Fairmont, call 837-0640 or 333-2857.

First Lady Hillary Clinton is still so very popular in California 22,000 turned up (and many more were sent away; the place was packed) when she gave the commencement address at San Francisco State last Saturday. Prior to the address, Senator Feinstein gave a breakfast for a few close friends at the Fairmont, where Frank and Wendy Jordan chatted for quite a while with the First Lady.

lapse, said, "I'm sorry, but I can't take this anymore." Crying, she quickly left the stage.

Meanwhile, in Washington, Senator Jesse Helms, FOB (Friend of Beelzebub), is once again targeting a federally funded AIDS prevention and treatment program. Helms, one of only four senators to vote against the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Emergency Resources Act in 1990, is now fighting the bill, which is up for its five-year reauthorization. The bill provides for \$3.6 billion to be spent on AIDS programs from 1996 to 2000. But Helms's office says the anti-gay Republican objects to the cost, among other things. The North Carolina senator charges that the bill makes more money available to people with AIDS than to victims of cancer or heart disease, although fewer people die from AIDS. Helms also said last week, while discussing the proposed bill, that "most people with AIDS, homosexuals and intravenous drug users, could have avoided it by modifying their behavior."

The Quote of the Week is from the always quotable (just ask Herb Caen) Willie Brown on his upcoming mayoral run for the roses: "I intend to run a positive campaign. I want to get away from the spin doctors. The public should see each candidate in all their glory." Has Jack Davis heard this? ▼



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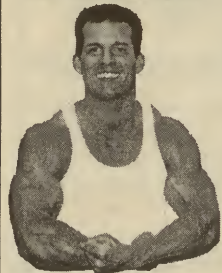
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SAPPHISTICATION

Will field for beer

by Beth Elliott

The first softball practice of the year always reminds me of Mark Twain's *Life on the Mississippi*. Twain wrote of how the riverboat captains he admired knew the river by heart, every bend and shallow and snag. But each spring they had to amend the maps in their heads, as the winter storms and spring run-offs changed the contours of water, sand, and trees. The first trip of the spring was a time for adjusting their way they navigated Old Man River.

Bodies can be like rivers, working just a little differently each spring. Practicing for a new season means adjusting the batting stance; shading to the left or right, forward or back in the field. The first practices and games call for decisions about one's entire approach to the game, finding the new feel of a familiar groove. This is a great opportunity to hear the rhythms of life as reflected in the body,

which means to learn a little more about one's self.

Since my ballplaying has migrated from weeknights toward weekends over the past few years, this spring was to have meant weighing competitive focus against more time for hiking and travel. Then fate stepped in. First, the nucleus of my women's team failed to hold in the wake of having mistaken our last tournament of '94 for the Dyke Drama World Series (and what a time for so many players to have career series). Then came a nasty eye injury and two months of recovery, meaning semicorrected vision. For the first six weeks, my vision changed from day to day, my corneas quivering like Wile E. Coyote after missing the Roadrunner and hitting the rock wall.

This, of course, made it difficult to go out and impress a new team enough to get picked up. Some friends on a co-ed team said, sure, they had a spot. I hit well the first game, but felt frustrated — and worried.

In time, my eyes settled down to the point where one pair of glasses worked, though with enough parallax to make the diamond look slightly unre-

Commentary

al. I reached the point of hitting consistently, which meant the welcome return of that feeling of relaxing into a sense of my capabilities: not pushing myself to perform, or thinking too much, but letting nerves and muscles reflexively do what we've learned together. I could trust my body again, which meant I could give myself over to play, to letting myself perform beyond what I might think are my limitations. I play ball for just that exhilaration.

Clueless comments

In many sports, like the sports women play, performance often relies less on brute strength or size than the correct

performance of a bodily maneuver: the "mechanics" of a play. When the proper mechanics become a reflex, athletes can do powerful things that feel really good. When training, focus, and emotional intensity combine to produce a good play, especially in a crucial competitive situation, it's a major thrill. That's why I saw the "clueless" sign flash when I read of CBS golf analyst Ben Wright's reputed comments that lesbians were ruining women's golf by making it a "butch" game.

With all due respect to the Scottish side of the family, it's hard for me to think of golf as a particularly "butch" game. I'm not sure I could name a more mechanics-intensive sport — but that translates into beauty and grace. If Wright believes lesbians (instead of homophobia) are an obstacle to the LPGA tour's growth (and more opportunities for female athletes), he can only be thinking of image. The move away from glamour-shot LPGA calendars? The popularity of the Dinah Shore weekend? If women golfers are suddenly booming their tee shots like never before, it can only be the result of better mechanics or better mechanics combined with a wee bit of weight training for strength (which differs from training for bulk). Is it that some women's drives are rivaling men's, despite the handicap of "boobs"?

The defiant ones

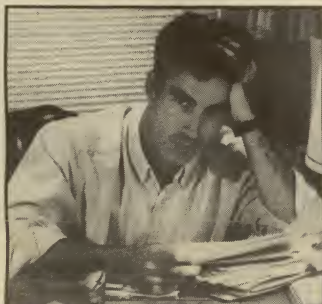
Wright was quoted as saying that lesbianism on the tour "is not reticent. It's paraded. There's a defiance in them the last decade." Defiance?

I only hope so. It's past time to be fed up with the pressure to be a hetero pin-up to play whatever game one loves so passionately (which athletes do). "Not reticent" sounds to me like "not closeted" and "paraded" like "not going out of their way to hide." Someone who has supported women's golf for 40 years must surely know good women the closet has damaged.

I keep coming back to the line about "going to a butch game." What the hell does that mean? Enjoying physical exertion? Enjoying making the complicated maneuvers synchronizing strength and precision, and not caring how we look (especially while we're learning them)? If that's what makes someone (or her game) butch, I should be one mean old daddy by now, not a half-preppie, half-sultry lipstick lesbian.

Nonetheless, there is, in that enjoyment of jumping into one's body as though into a sports car to see what it can do, a transgression against conventional limits on how (and how much) women may enjoy our bodies. We're supposed to enjoy our bodies for their visual esthetics, especially as judged by the male gaze. (Yes, sports fans, it's Deconstructionist Happy Hour at the Three Dot Lounge.) Is it "butch" to care more about our play than how we look playing? (And dahling, they play mahvelous! Okay, so they look mahvelous, too.)

"The lessons of sports" are, traditionally, teamwork and fair play. For women, they include the joy of physical activity, and the pride and confidence that brings. Seeing women learn thrills the lesbian heart — and should thrill the heart of everyone who claims to love women. ▼



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Shrinking access

by Al Kielwasser

Thanks to a recent move by Viacom Cable, television viewers in San Francisco will be getting less public access and more shopping excess. Viacom intends to eliminate approximately ten hours per day of public access and public service programming. The air time will be filled, instead, with more hours of "home shopping" from the Quality Value Channel (QVC).

Viacom has attempted to deflect criticism by claiming that, under the new plan, cable viewers will also be provided with expanded coverage of the California Channel (a State service offering gavel-to-gavel coverage of the California Legislature). But Zane Blaney, Executive Director of the non-profit Community TV Corporation (CTC), is not convinced by the Viacom ploy. "Don't be deceived," Blaney cautions, "This is about Viacom crunching as much commercial channel space on the cable system to enhance its chances of selling the Viacom Cable Division. This is about greed without regard for the public interest."

In exchange for the monopoly franchises they receive from local governments, cable operators are routinely required to provide the community with a free public access channel. That's a small price to pay for such a lucrative franchise (which is, in effect, "a license to print money.")

Yet even that small price is too big for some. According to Blaney, "Viacom Cable and the cable industry have tried for years to destroy public, education, and government access programming."

"And at the rate they're going," he warns, "they may succeed."

If Viacom does succeed, the lesbian, gay, and bisexual audience will lose. Public access channels have become an important forum for affordable, alternative, and uncensored programming. Individuals who lack the economic resources of broadcast and cable companies have at least some opportunity, through public access, to create their own television. These channels help ensure that freedom of expression is not limited to those who own the medium of expression.

The CTC is urging individuals to call or write the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and demand an end to Viacom's encroachment on public access. If necessary, the Board of Supervisors can change existing Cable Franchise agreements to mandate that public access be managed by a nonprofit corporation and that public access programming be provided 24 hours per day.

• **Comments should be directed to Kevin Shelley, President, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 308, tel. 415-554-5184; Doug Schulz, General Manager, Viacom Cable, 2055 Folsom, San Francisco CA 94110-1330, tel. 415-863-8500.**

Harper's: good bi

A significant contribution to

bisexual visibility has been made by one of the nation's oldest fashion magazines. The June 1995 issue of *Harper's Bazaar* (which has been published since 1867) features two articles on bisexuality.

In the first article, Lynn Darling explores bisexuality as it is focused through the lens of popular culture. Examining the relationship between media images and social values, Darling argues for the recognition of bisexuality as an orientation that is both valid and worthy of validation.

The second article was written by Rachel Cohen, a young bisexual woman. Cohen offers a personal perspective on the myths, fears and ignorance that bisexuals confront – in both the heterosexual and lesbian/gay communities.

In the midst of yet another conservative backlash – and a presidential campaign marked by the most sex-negative rhetoric – articles such as these are particularly important. These public discussions challenge sexual orthodoxy and provide an essential forum for the affirmation of sexual freedom and diversity.

• **Send supportive feedback to Elizabeth Tilberis, Editor-in-Chief, Harper's Bazaar, 1700 Broadway, New York NY 10019.**

Television on sex

On June 1, the ABC television network broadcast *In A New Light: Sex Unplugged*. Through fast-paced edits and celebrity sound bites, the prime-time special targeted young viewers with information about safer-sex.

In something of a breakthrough for network television, *Sex Unplugged* examined teenage sexuality with a tone that was more positive than pedantic. The program went beyond the usual rhetoric of abstinence – which has consistently failed to educate or empower youth.

The program's hosts – Rosie Perez and Ed Love – were supported by a large celebrity cast, which included brief appearances by Greg Louganis and Melissa Etheridge. One segment of *Sex Unplugged* was devoted exclusively to gay concerns.

The gay youth segment opened with an apt lament from C. Everett Koop. The former Surgeon General noted: "Nobody is paying much attention to homosexual teenagers." From there, the youth took over the dialogue and explained some of the (literally) lethal consequences of homophobia.

Uniquely, *Sex Unplugged* addressed the often-overlooked role that self-esteem plays in HIV prevention. The issue is particularly pertinent for lesbian, gay and bisexual youth, who are relentlessly deprived of affirmation at all levels of society. As one youth asked: "If no one wants to talk to me about what it means to be gay, how are we ever going to get to a place where it's OK to talk about safer sex for young gay men?" Unfortunately, the diversity that characterized other segments of *Sex Unplugged* evaporated when it came to the gay segment. No lesbians or bisexuals were included, and not one of

the young gay men was a person of color.

Despite its drawbacks, however, *Sex Unplugged* managed to provide a few precious minutes of sex-positive education in an otherwise barren media landscape. But even those few minutes are certain to raise the hackles of right-wing censors. The postcard campaigns – demanding that ABC stop "promoting homosexuality" and "corrupting family values" – probably began even before the show aired.

• **Counter the critics and encourage ABC to move even farther ahead, producing more diverse and (long overdue) prime-time programming that is focused entirely on lesbian, gay and bisexual youth. Send feedback to Ted Harbert, President, ABC Entertainment, 2040 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles CA 90067, tel. 310-557-7777, fax 310-557-7170, e-mail abcaudr@ccabc.com.**

Media briefs

• **Accessing The Public ... "Public Access: Making It Happen" is a one-day workshop that provides participants with "a comprehensive look at what public access is and how to use it." The workshop is offered on June 17 and July 15, 1 - 4 PM. For details, contact the San Francisco Community Television Corporation, P.O. Box 427190, San Francisco CA 94142, tel. 415-557-4293, fax 415-557-4449, e-mail accesstv@sfcctc.org.**

• **"Day of Compassion" ... Hollywood Supports has announced that "an unprecedented list of national television programs, daytime soap operas, news shows and cable outlets" will honor the "Day of Compassion" on June 21 by "devoting programming to AIDS awareness and people affected by HIV/AIDS." First-time participants in the annual event include nineteen cable networks. Contact: Hollywood Supports, 8455 Beverly Blvd., Suite 305, Los Angeles CA 90048, tel. 213-655-7705, fax 213-655-0955, e-mail hsupports@aol.com.**

• **The Details On Hate Radio ... The June '95 issue of Details magazine includes a lengthy profile of Spencer Hughes, "the youngest talk-radio host in America, and possibly the angriest." Hughes is on staff at KSFO, the all-conservative (and all-homophobic) San Francisco radio station. Contact: Joe Dolce, Editor-In-Chief, "Details," 350 Madison Ave., New York NY 10017.**

We must confront homophobia in order to cure it! To notify GLAAD/SFBA of any defamatory or affirmative media coverage call our 24-hour "Media Watch Hotline" at 415-861-4588, or write to "Media Watch," Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation/San Francisco Bay Area, 1360 Mission Street, Suite 200, San Francisco CA 94103; tel. 415-861-2244, fax 415-861-4893, e-mail GLAADSFBA@AOL.COM.

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LGADDA To Hold Annual Banquet Saturday

Watkins, Scott, Craig, Flunder, Salazar honored

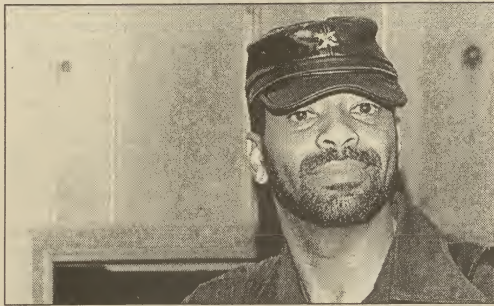
by Dennis Conkin

Gay military hero Perry Watkins, the first person to successfully challenge the Army's ban on gays in the military, will be honored on Saturday, June 10 at "Speaking Our Colors," the fourth annual Lesbian and Gays of African Descent For

Democratic Action banquet at the Grand Hyatt on Union Square.

Watkins retired from the Army as a sergeant after successfully challenging its ban on gays in the military. His case was decided by the federal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals after Watkins was refused re-enlistment. Watkins had informed military recruiters that he was openly gay when he initially joined the service and was never discharged or disciplined because of sexual orientation. The Court of Appeals ruled in his favor, ordering his re-employment, and the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear further appeals by the Army.

San Francisco lesbian activist and former Police Commissioner Gwenn Craig, recently appointed by Supervisor Susan Leal to the city's Election Task Force, will receive the group's Political Activism Award for her continuous leadership to the African-American and lesbian and gay communities. Craig is a founding member of and onetime co-chair of the group.



Perry Watkins.

According to banquet organizer Adrian Tyler, LGADDA was formed in 1992 to increase the visibility of African-American lesbians and gay men, to expand their participation in the electoral process through voter registration and education.

East Bay physician Dr. Robert Scott will receive the group's African-American Intercommunity Award for his role in encouraging African-American churches in the East

Bay to accept people with HIV.

Reverend Yvette Flunder, founder and pastor of the City Of Refuge church, will receive the Cultural Vision Award for her pioneering work in welcoming lesbian and gays into the congregation and for the church's extensive outreach to people with HIV and AIDS.

Activist Maria Salazar, a founding member of Ellas En Accion, a Latina lesbian group instrumental in Leal's election,

will receive the group's Transcultural Award for her ongoing support of the Latina and Hispanic community.

AIDS service Awards will go to the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention and the AIDS Project East Bay for their continuing leadership and outreach to the African-American Community.

Banquet entertainment includes singer Richie Watts of *Beach Blanket Babylon* and cast members of the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre production of *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide ... When the Rainbow Was Enuf*, who will perform dramatic excerpts from the award winning play.

Other entertainment will include a steel drum band to complement the evening's Caribbean menu, according to Tyler.

No-host cocktails begin at 6 p.m.; dinner and the evening's program will begin at 7. Tickets to the gala event are \$60 each, and can be purchased by calling Tyler at 864-2290 or Alonzo Reese at 775-6281 or 780-1652. ▼

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Photo: Mick Hicks

Glenn Burke takes a breather after a hard-fought game for his Pendulum team.

Burke

Continued from page 1

handle it. I felt like my son's private life was his own, but they didn't let him have it that way," she told a *New York Times* reporter.

Burke's life deteriorated as he began using drugs more and more frequently; after his leg was shattered by a speeding car in 1987, his crack cocaine problem proved incapacitating and he ended up living on the street.

In 1991, Burke served six months of a 16-month sentence in San Quentin prison, after pleading guilty to grand theft and possession of controlled drugs. He was re-incarcerated twice for parole violations.

Burke's plight became public

last year after gay sports leader Jack McGowan ran into Burke in a doorway on Castro Street and realized that he had AIDS.

McGowan contacted the A's about Burke's situation and also organized lesbian and gay community support for the sports figure. A fund was established at Welcome Home Restaurant in the Castro so Burke could receive hot meals.

"I think after baseball, he lost direction and then got involved with crack and was never able to shake that," said longtime friend Tom Kelley. "He deteriorated like many other people we've seen go through this epidemic."

Burke spent the last months of his life in Oakland with his sister Lutha Davis.

He is survived by his mother, five sisters and a brother. ▼

Meet Kenya Briggs, LGADDA's New Co-Chair

by Mary Ann Swissler

It's a good thing former opera major Kenya M. Briggs likes music, because in her line of work she has listened to hundreds of radio stations through her phone receiver while on hold. Briggs runs a jobs hotline for aspiring broadcasters, and the time she invariably spends listening to the different stations' programming while dialing up news directors across the country has given her a wide knowledge of current broadcasting trends.

It's a good thing she loves music, she says; it's the right-wing talk shows she could do without.

Briggs, who is herself a former broadcaster, says she is disturbed by the homophobic and right-wing comments she hears. The San Francisco native says comments being broadcast beyond the Bay Area make her glad she returned here from the small California town (and closet) where she formerly lived and worked as a reporter, to come out in a large gay community.

"I didn't want to [come out] on camera in a small town before I really knew what [being a lesbian] was all about," she says.

"I was so acutely aware of how homophobia in society and within myself had kept me in the closet until I was 25. I knew I wasn't going to sit on the sidelines and let somebody else fight for my freedom."

Affirmation in action

In March, Briggs was named co-chair of LGADDA, the Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action. She previously served as the group's treasurer. Briggs replaced Lauri Irving, who vacated the position to take a job with Supervisor Tom Ammiano.

"I am very excited," Briggs told the B.A.R. "We have challenges ahead but that is what makes the work exciting. We have created a power base to help deal with the conservative onslaught. I feel positive about our future prospects."

Election endorsements are one of the club's main focuses. "We do endorsements in the different elections and we try and have those endorsements reflect concerns of gays and lesbians of African descent. We are watching [this November's mayoral race] very closely and we're holding all the candidates to the



LGADDA co-chair
Kenya Marie Briggs.

highest level of scrutiny. Our top priority is to make certain that Jordan is not re-elected as mayor."

Reaching out to other civic organizations to educate them about affirmative action is another focus of LGADDA, by having them speak at their meetings or tabling out on Castro to do education to the broader gay and lesbian community, said Briggs. Reaching out to the East Bay is a second goal for LGADDA. "Black issues aren't geographically oriented," she said.

These lofty goals all take time, something Briggs is trying to accommodate by selling her hotline business. And she recently moved over to Oakland to be closer to her job running a National Writers Union hotline for technical writers.

Briggs's co-chair Dr. Donald Tarver said the club will benefit from "Kenya's force of spirit." He told the B.A.R., "She's an extremely personable and intelligent individual who has transitioned from San Francisco to the East Bay, where we have been seeking to provide more member services."

He added that when Briggs was treasurer, she helped develop a more sophisticated accounting system at a time when increased fundraising meant the club needed better money management.

Briggs, who is well on her way to becoming a strong presence in the local community, said her greatest source of strength comes from her childhood. Despite growing up biracial (her mother is white), she disagrees with the idea that light-skinned African-Americans have easier access to the mainstream—at least for her.

"I had a lot of opportunities that weren't based in skin color. It's a matter of having confidence instilled in you at a young age."

"There are dynamics in our community over it," she acknowledges. But life is not easier just because of skin color. "If you look around, it's just the opposite. Most [African-Americans] in the Bay Area who are in power positions in the Bay Area are dark-skinned."

Briggs said, "Anyone who has opportunities when they're younger" is probably going to have an easier time "because they have vision and a lot of confidence." Her grandmother, a woman Briggs described as incredibly dynamic and intelligent, was one of those people who instilled a whopping dose of self-worth in Briggs. And, although she only did janitorial work, she saved her money and bought a beautiful Victorian house in the Castro.

"Back then, things weren't as expensive," Briggs observed, "and buying a home was possible."

But most of all, Briggs credited her parents for acting like typical San Franciscans and letting her spirit grow unfettered. "Fortunately I have tremendously progressive parents, so [being a lesbian] wasn't an issue with them." ▼

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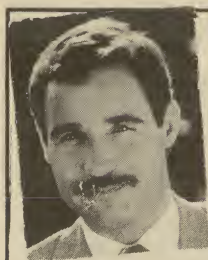
by Kent Brandley

The annual Women and Cancer Walk will be held this Sunday, June 11, at Sharon Meadows in Golden Gate Park.

The "five kilometer pledge walk, run, or roll" will raise money for a variety of beneficiaries who serve women with breast cancer—now an epidemic among Bay Area women, particularly lesbians.

The walk will begin at 11:30 a.m., and will be followed by a post-walk program at 2 p.m.

Pledge forms are available in the city at the Women's Building, located at 3543 18th Street. ▼



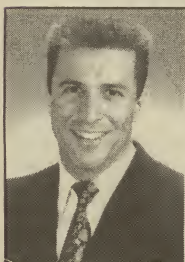
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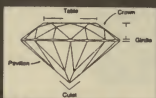
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NATIONAL NEWS

Pediatrician to Colleagues: Find Religion, 'Treat' Homosexuality

But others dispute 'irresponsible' views, dubious studies

by Dennis Conkin

Gay and lesbian physicians are criticizing *The American Academy of Pediatrics News* for publishing an opinion piece in its May 1995 issue that claims homosexuality is a "treatable gender role disorder."

The point of view article by John Leslie, M.D., Ph.D. says that there are religious as well as scientific reasons to believe that homosexuality is "an abnormal condition." Leslie also says that people who hold such views should not be considered homophobic; that the risk for pedophilia is increased among homosexuals; and that science—including studies which indicate genetic or biological bases of sexual orientation—must not validate homosexual behavior.

"The article is irresponsible and unfair," said Dr. Paul Bloom, M.D., a Rockland County, New York pediatrician member of the national Gay and Lesbian Medical Association. "They were irresponsible in publishing the opinion piece."

According to Leslie, however, the debate about the classification of homosexuality is far from over.

Doctor's orders established by Christ

"Physicians should recognize that the principles needed to resolve many of society's 'gray' issues such as homosexuality have already been established in the world's religions, especially Christianity," Leslie writes.

Children with "gender role confusion such as gay or lesbian orientation" should be "appropriately and compassionately counseled with the goal of converting them to healthy heterosexuality," he says in the article.

"This is appalling," said Philip Wu, M.D., a gay pediatrician in Medford, Oregon. "It's a shocking and irresponsible piece that offers very little in the pediatric, medical, or even in the social, sense."

Wu said the article read like a position paper for a right wing Christian agenda, and that he was surprised editors at the AAP would feel obliged to give such a view legitimacy.

Leslie's article was published in response to a piece by Doug Hamill, a Roman Catholic priest-pediatrician who argued in the February 1995 AAP News that homosexual sexual orientation was normal.

According to Wu, Leslie's views are held by a minority of pediatricians, and the Academy has generally been "enormously supportive" of lesbian and gay rights and lesbian and gay healthcare issues.

"It's sad to see someone who has that kind of a point of view to justify it with science," Wu told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Leslie's attempt to link homosexual sexual orientation with child sexual abuse was without foundation, Wu said.

In the AAP News piece, Leslie cited one study that indicated 22 percent of abused children had been molested by a same-sex adult, plus other studies that indicated about 28 percent of gays and one percent of lesbians admitted to sexual interaction with children younger than 16 while they were adults.

"Researchers have found that pedophilia and homosexuality have absolutely nothing to do with each other. Child sexual abuse experts know that there's no connection," Wu said.

The inevitable backlash

Both Wu and Bloom said that they felt Leslie's point of view was harmful to lesbian and gay or questioning youth and adolescents, especially in areas where no information is available to counter anti-gay sentiments.

"Many youth are going to have issues around their sexual orientation and no appropriate information. That's a tragedy," Wu said.

Gay and Lesbian Medical Association Executive Director Benjamin Schatz said the publication of Leslie's opinion piece reflected "an inevitable backlash" in the medical community against openly lesbian and gay physicians who have decided to challenge inaccurate and homophobic information.

"It wouldn't have been printed if the lesbian and gay community hadn't been asserting its legitimate views. It's disappointing the American Academy of Pediatrics saw fit to print the article. Some points of view are so out of date, they are not worthy of such recognition," Schatz said.

With more than 1500 member physicians and medical students, GLMA has issued an action alert concerning the piece to its constituents, Schatz said.

The American Academy of Pediatrics will meet for its convention this October in San Francisco. ▼

THIS WEEK IN GAY HISTORY

When the Nightmare Began

by Mary Ann Swissler

The American public was first made aware of AIDS 14 years ago, with a single medical report issued by the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta June 4, 1981. The Associated Press sent out a routine and cursory capsule of the report shortly thereafter, discussing an obscure strain of pneumonia the CDC blamed for the deaths of five gay men in San Francisco. Most newspapers saw little news value, and buried the story—if they bothered to run it at all.

Still, it got the attention of some alert gay readers, especially here in the Bay Area, and the news quickly circulated throughout the community this week: the terms "AIDS" and "GRID" (Gay Related Immune Dysfunction) hadn't been coined yet, but the first whisperings about a "gay plague" were being heard.

According to the article, other gay men were also dying of *pneumocystis carinii*, including five in Los Angeles and an undisclosed number on the East Coast.

"The pneumonia usually attacks people whose bodies have been weakened by a virus," Betty Agee of the Communicable Diseases Control Office of L.A. County was quoted as saying. The disease usually afflicted newborn infants, debilitated persons, the elderly, and pregnant women; how gay men fit into the scenario remained a mystery.

The culprit responsible for the men's illness was believed to be viral, Agee went on to say, adding, "It is accompanied by sickness from the

virus cytomegalo, which weakens the body's immunity and makes it vulnerable to the pneumonia."

'No one knew what it meant'

Bill Walker of the AIDS History Project later recalled that the community's reaction was perfectly illustrated in the beginning scene of *Longtime Companion*. In that film, gay men were shown reading these early news reports wondering what impact it would have. "That's what it was like," he said.

"It was a topic of conversation. No one knew what it meant. To put it in perspective at that point I doubt that there were very many people who paid much attention to it at all. It's only in historical hindsight that that was the particular moment that we got the first flash warning of what was yet to come. No one had any idea what it would mean."

Early death was the impact, at first and to this day. One of the first men to die was 42-year-old *Advocate* associate editor Brent Harris, who became the first staff person there to die from complications due to AIDS.

Even Dr. Anthony Fauci—who, for better or worse, was made the government's AIDS czar at the National Institutes of Health—was stumped by the initial reports. Last month, Fauci compared those first few reports to the day when JFK was shot: everyone remembers exactly where they were.

By July 1981, 26 gay men were dead from the new illness. ▼

AFP, Unitarians To Celebrate Gay, Lesbian Families Saturday

A thousand participants expected, organizers say

by Kent Brandley

A Family Day, in honor of the families we have created, will be celebrated by Bay Area lesbian and gay parents, their children, and friends this Saturday, June 10.

Organizers say the positive image projected by the gathering of solid, established, and loving unconventional families is especially important at a time when politicians — even divorced ones — grovel to make points with the religious right.

The first Family Day Celebration, which organizers plan to make an annual event, will be hosted by the First Unitarian Church of San Francisco, located at 1187 Franklin Street (at Geary). Organizers are preparing for 1,000 participants at the gathering from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

About 500 people attended the last family gathering held by The Alternative Family Project in January, said project coordinator Cheryl Deaner.

"The purpose of Family Day is to show the world that we are families and have families as good as anyone else," Deaner told the *Bay Area Reporter*. This positive image is very important, she explained, considering that "Pete Wilson's staff is currently rewriting the Department of Social Service regulations concerning adoptions and foster parenting for lesbians and gays."

"He does not believe that anyone except heterosexual married couples deserve to be parents," Deaner added.

"What we would like to tell these people — which they don't seem to understand — is that we have 100,000 families in the Bay Area where one or more parents or children are gay or lesbian."

At a time when the Christian Coalition is pushing its so-called Contract with the American Family, Deaner told the *B.A.R.* she is more concerned with family civil rights. She said the package of family civil rights include marriage, adoptions, the right to cover the family under insurance, and property rights in a survivorship, among others.

"Gay and lesbian families are impacted by lack of civil rights and by those who would deny them a family unit. They are isolated from each other and from other families," Deaner said. "Isolation can lead to internalizing homophobia."

Kate Kendell, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, will speak at Family Day about these kinds of issues, Deaner said. She will be joined by mayoral candidate Roberta Achtenberg. Entertainment at the celebration will include stand-up comic Lisa Geduldig, the folk/rock/blues band The Moving Violations, and Supervisor (and parent, teacher, and gay comic)



Photo: Jill Cunningham

Family Day founders (standing, l to r): Marcia Munn, Amy Kelly, Miriam Schick, Lori Guidos, Cheryl Deaner, Angela Davis, Karen Rust and Lisa Orta. On trikes: Jesse and Gary.

Tom Ammann. Also brightening the festivities will be the Drama Divas, a component of Brava! for the Arts, made up of minority lesbian and gay youth.

Ongoing activities include a jumping tent, non-sectarian family blessings, video presentations, information tables, a raffle with great prizes, and caricatures by Noa Teplow.

The event is a fundraiser for *The Family Next Door*, a national bi-monthly publication for lesbian and gay parents and their friends, and for the Alternative Family Project, a non-profit lesbian and gay family counseling and support agency based in San Francisco.

Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for the first child, and \$3 for each additional child, which includes a box lunch. Children 24 months old and under are free. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. ▼

For more information, contact Cheryl Deaner at (415) 566-LOVE (5683).

The invisible wounded

Sexual Minority Youth Course At Sonoma State this Weekend

by Kent Brandley

A two-day course at Sonoma State University on "Sexual Minority Youth: The Invisible Wounded" will be held this Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. — if sufficient interest can be gained before then.

The class will be taught by Doug Duell, an educational consultant specializing in abuse issues with a master's degree in Psychology and Counseling. He is also an instructor at the Center for Creative Expression in Santa Rosa.

"Long before children are aware of their sexual orientation, nearly all have heard that homosexuality is either immoral, abnormal, inferior, inadequate or all of the above," according to Duell. "Sexual minority teenagers, unable to 'pass' as heterosexual, are often forced to leave their homes or schools due to ostracism, intimidation, name calling, punishment, and/or violence."

"Most spend their adolescent years hiding, while attempting to come to terms with their sexuality alone."

Outstanding evaluations of the class have prompted the university to strongly support the

class, but a similar class scheduled for March had to be canceled due to lack of attendance. If the June class does not meet enrollment this will probably be the last time Sonoma State can offer it, according to therapist Jeffrey S. Cotton M.A., of Monte Rio. Cotton works with children in treatment facilities and conducts seminars for two state child care associations.

The course may be taken for one unit of credit for \$97, or without credit for \$65.

At this writing only seven people had signed on, possibly because of limited exposure, or possibly because the date of the seminar coincides with the Sonoma County Gay Pride Parade. Duell says he solved that problem by including a visit to the parade, as a two-hour field trip, as part of the course. He told the *B.A.R.* interested persons can sign up for the class until it begins Saturday. ▼

The course will be taught in Room 69 of Rachel Carson Hall at Sonoma State University Extended Education, located at 1801 East Cotati Avenue, Rohnert Park, California. For information call (707) 664-2394.

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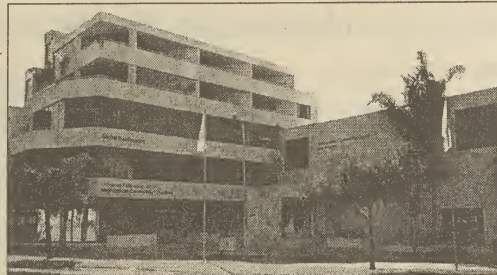
MCC Moves to Complete \$3.8 Million Property Deal

Fundraising for global headquarters, L.A. "Mother Church"

by Kent Brandley

When the Los Angeles Metropolitan Community Church was destroyed by an earthquake over a year ago, the Reverend Troy D. Perry, founder and moderator of the growing gay/lesbian oriented denomination, saw the opportunity to "take a tragedy and out of it perform a miracle." Now Perry and the Reverend Elder Nancy Wilson of the Los Angeles "Mother Church" — on behalf of the denomination and with the blessings of the MCC General Council — have committed to purchase two adjacent modern structures for \$3.8 million.

The property at 8704-8714 Santa Monica Boulevard would house the global headquarters of the denomination in a five-story office building, while a second two-story building with basement would serve as the church.



The proposed new headquarters for the MCC/LA and global MCC at 8704-8714 Santa Monica Blvd.

The property also includes a parking lot for about 75 vehicles.

A \$1 million down-payment is due October 31, and Perry and Wilson are working to come up with \$500,000 as their proportional share by that time.

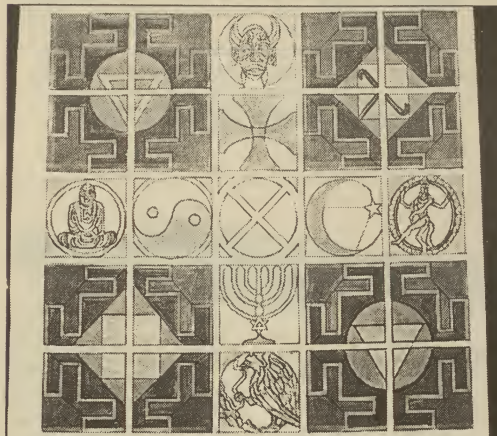
The two structures on the property, in the middle of West Hollywood, were built in 1989 and conform to all earthquake standards, building codes, and American Disabilities Act standards, Perry said in a recent fundraising letter.

The Los Angeles Church hopes to raise most of its part of the down-payment by selling the property where the MCC building stood before it was ruined by the earthquake.

Just one day after the church authorities voted to acquire the property, the church was notified by an attorney that a former member of De Colores Metropolitan Community Church in Los Angeles had died and left the Universal Fellowship of MCC a bequest of about \$150,000.

"I believe this is God's way of telling us we did the proper thing in making the offer on this piece of property," Perry said. The bequest will not reach the church before the down-payment is required, so he has said he hopes 500 people will send \$1,000 each to help the church make the payment. ▼

To contribute, or for further information, contact the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches at 5300 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 304, Los Angeles CA 90029, or phone (213) 464-5100.



Last week's article on the MCC/SF's new stained glass window incorrectly stated the price that each pane could be underwritten for. The amount should have been \$500 per pane.

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AmFAR and Krim Steer Toward Hope on the Horizon

June 20 SF party will be the coolest on earth— or water

by Karen Ocamb

Anyone planning to cover the waterfront on Tuesday, June 20 will be in excellent company. When the newly-built AmFAR-Crystal Symphony luxury liner docks at Pier 35 that morning for a champagne luncheon to honor Jim Hormel, more than the food will be rich. Tickets that grant permission to board and see a show hosted by Robert Guillaume cost \$150 and \$250 each, with proceeds going to the American Foundation for AIDS Research.

The \$225 million Crystal Symphony ship has already hosted a benefit for AmFAR at its Memorial Day christening in New York, presided over by Angela Lansbury, plus the May 29 "All Aboard with AmFAR" in Los Angeles. With Crystal Cruises' underwriting of those and the forthcoming San Francisco event, AmFAR will be able to keep all money raised — much of it coming from people who have never contributed money to fight AIDS before.

This is what the fundraising arm of AmFAR — the American Foundation for AIDS Research — does best: it reaches new hearts and minds (and money). Since 1985 it has raised and dispersed over \$77 million in grants and scholar awards to over 1,600 research teams, but it is now facing a bleak future that forced \$4 million in previous grant commitments to be eliminated from the 1996 budget.

AmFAR and the gay community

During a meeting several months ago at the Beverly Hilton Hotel with the gay press, AmFAR founder and chair Mathilde Krim acknowledged that there



Photo: Morgan Greenwald

The Lady and the Leatherman: AmFAR's Dr. Mathilde Krim meets in her home with Mr. Leather New York 1995 Andrew Borden.

have been communication problems between the national non-profit often associated with "glamorous" heterosexual-heavy fundraisers and the more grassroots AIDS organizations. More recently, Krim spoke with the *Bay Area Reporter* and said she is "hurt" that the gay community thinks AmFAR is pulling away.

"Given that it was founded by me and a bunch of straight guys," Krim said, in order to "open the cause to the world other than the gay community" which was "already bearing a terrible burden in 1985, I've been really hurt when I heard that the gay community said that we were abandoning it. That was the word used.

"The intention was exactly the opposite — bringing help from the outside — and we are better placed to do this than any other because we have a larger outreach than gay community groups and there is always another place where we can speak with a professional voice."

Rather than resent AmFAR, she said, the gay community "should use us... We have to use all the ways" to raise money, educate, and eventually eradicate AIDS.

Although she admits she lives in a constant state of depression because of those who've died of AIDS (a condition that is no doubt compounded by the recent death of her husband, Arthur),

Krim told the *B.A.R.* she does not see the AIDS landscape as a bleak and hopeless one. Not even in an era of stringent Republican Congressional budget cuts, which she anticipates will make more people with AIDS homeless.

"My hope is not based on the size of the budget," Krim says firmly. "My hope is based on what science can do today. With molecular genetics, molecular biology, we have such powerful tools in our hands that there is no question that we're going to be able to suppress the rate of multiplication of the virus. We're going to also, in the future, control the functioning of the immune system."

"But just suppressing the virus — if we start treating people early in the disease before the immune system is destroyed — they're going to be able to lead a normal lifestyle, probably under treatment continuously. But the kind of treatments that can be developed through genetic engineering are not toxic, they are not drugs. They are biological."

And, she added, clinical trials are under way to test what she called "the new approaches, the new molecules that specifically inhibit viral genes and don't touch the genes of the cell — and this is why they are not toxic."

"We have also to define the word 'cure.'"

HIV is here to stay

Krim went on to say, "'Cure,' in the public understanding, means a solution, in a broad sense. When we talk about 'cure' we mean a solution — but a solution, at least as of today, [that's] not a total eradication of the virus. I think the virus is here to stay, part of the human

Continued on page 26

Community Forum



Understanding HIV Pathogenesis

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INFORMATION: For further information, please call the Teleconference Coordinators at 1-800-555-9587 (in New York State, 1-800-521-1177) between the hours of 9:00 AM and 8:00 PM, eastern time.

This program is co-sponsored by the National Association of People with AIDS, the National Lesbian and Gay Health Association, the National Minority AIDS Council, and Project Inform and is supported under an unrestricted educational grant from Burroughs Wellcome Co.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Cops to Oakland Needle Exchangers: We're Just Doing our Job

by Mary Ann Swissler

Finding an indoor site for Oakland's controversial needle exchange program would help not only the volunteers behind the three-year-old HIV prevention effort, but would also relieve beat cops from citing volunteers and clients, according to Oakland Police Sergeant Tony Hare.

Hare recently spoke at length with the *Bay Area Reporter* about ways the two groups can keep from butting heads until a permanent solution is reached. Not that the police can do much to legalize possession or distribution of hypodermic needles, he said, but finding a subtle way around existing law — such as bringing needle exchange indoors — might help.

"If the problem is possession of a needle without a prescription," he said, "I suspect that the next level of sophistication in getting around the hurdles of existing law is not going to be a police solution."

"It's going to be somebody finding another tool to do what they need."

Hare wouldn't speculate if an indoor site would eliminate police citations altogether, but by its nature such a site would probably allay some of the pub-



Oakland Police Sgt. Tony Hare.

lic's concerns.

Until some solution is found to eliminate the "public nuisance" factor that prompts neighborhood complaints, Hare defended the department's continuing citation of ACE volunteers as a legitimate response by law enforcement officers. Whether any members of the Oakland police force agree with it or not, he said, holding or giving away clean hypodermic needles violates state law.

"We use split second, life and death application of authority to resolve things. Under those circumstances, despite our great discretion, we have to follow the rules and then let the judiciary decide what's criminal behavior or not," Hare said.

Activists and most government officials in Oakland want the intervention process stopped before it gets to that point, something Hare said is possible if the right solution can be sought. "What you're trying to do is find a local accommodation pending a statewide remedy. And it looks like you have one in San Francisco and I think you have one in Oakland thanks to council members, the city manager and the mayor. They've given a direction [to police] that said, 'Find other things to do.' We adhere to that, but if someone calls us to the scene, we have built in a decision-making process to address community concerns. We bring a police commander to the scene to help resolve things."

In San Francisco, where needle exchange sites are much closer to businesses and residences, police recommend mediation between volunteers and neighbors if complaints arise. ▼

Internet

Continued from page 1

Montgomery's disappearance.

Montgomery's religious parents had contacted reporters two weeks after their son's disappearance. According to the *Seattle Times*, Montgomery left Star's home of his own accord after local reporters began writing stories about Star, whom the *San Francisco Examiner* had not yet identified but nevertheless described as a "sexual predator who prowled through cyberspace."

Montgomery was discovered at 3 a.m., Sunday, June 2 by San Francisco International Airport police in the ticket area of SFO's North Terminal, according to SFO spokesman Rick Wilson.

"On routine patrol, our police do sometimes find people like this," Wilson told the *B.A.R.* "He was somewhat distraught. He was confused, and that prompted our police to take him to Chope Hospital for evalua-

tion."

Airport police contacted Montgomery's parents, who had already notified the FBI after they received an earlier call from the youth, reportedly to say he was going to his grandmother's house in Southern California.

Report retorts

Supervisor Susan Leal expressed frustration about the way the story was reported by the mainstream press.

"The press has been very quick to jump to conclusions without all the information," she told the *B.A.R.*, "and that definitely has an impact on a community."

"Straight, white men run the mainstream press, and they screw up in other ways when they deal with people and communities of color and different sexual orientations. You're dealing with people who are quick to judge and whose point of reference about us is just not the same as ours."

But Tim Porter, Metro editor of the *Examiner*, said the story is "about parents who are worried about their children."

"Regardless of whether a teen did it," he said, "it's still against the law."

Porter denied the *Examiner* reports showed any anti-gay bias. "It's not exclusive to same-sex relationships," he said. "Some parents worry about who their children encounter; they meet people on-line that parents may feel to be unsafe."

Tom DiMaria, consultant to Digital Queers, told the *B.A.R.* he thought the reports were "exploiting the gay issue and playing up the sex angle in its sensationalist kind of way."

"They are portraying gay men as predators and juveniles

as victims."

The rights of gay kids

Supervisor Tom Ammiano told the *Bay Area Reporter* he thought the mainstream reporting was "blatantly homophobic" and ignored the fact that "gay teenagers want to meet other gay teenagers" and are too often denied the chance to do so.

"Whatever happened to pen-pals?" Ammiano asked the *B.A.R.* "What are the rights of young people? What rights do gay kids have?"

According to news reports, Montgomery had been coming to terms with his homosexuality — referred to in some press accounts as "sexual confusion" — shortly before he ran away.

News reports had also indicated that before he traveled to San Francisco, the youth had spent so much time on-line that his parents had limited his daily access to the computer bulletin board.

Montgomery — and apparently Star — had made some contact with the youth's parents while he was in the city; the parents told reporters their son had only said he was making money and sleeping on a waterbed, and that Star was wealthy.

Reporters also indicated Montgomery's father told them he accepted responsibility for relationship issues between himself and his son, and that he hopes to resolve the problems.

AOL spokesperson Amy McGraw told the *B.A.R.* the incident was "the first case of its kind" for the on-line service. On Tuesday, the media began reporting a story about a 13-year-old girl from Louisville, Kentucky who boarded a bus a week ago to meet a San Francisco man she met on-line. That man is still unidentified. ▼

Assembly OKs Compassionate Release Bill by 52-18 Margin

Tough Senate fight predicted; Marks to give support

by Kent Brandley

Last Thursday, June 1, the California State Assembly passed Assembly Bill 1408, the compassionate release bill for terminally ill and physically disabled prisoners — including those with HIV/AIDS — with strong bipartisan support on a vote of 52-18.

The bill, introduced by Assemblyman Antonio Villaraigosa (D-LA), now goes to the State Senate, where a more difficult fight is anticipated.

Judy Greenspan, director of the HIV/AIDS in Prison Project, said the Senate would probably consider the measure at the end

of June. She described the Senate appropriations committee as "very conservative."

Democratic Senator Milton Marks of San Francisco, chair of the Senate Committee on Criminal Procedure, told the B.A.R. he would support the legislation.

The measure sets strict medical criteria and streamlines current "recall of commitment" procedure for terminally ill prisoners.

AB 1408 received statewide support from groups such as the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Catholic Charities of California, the Catholic Conference of California

Bishops, AIDS Project of Los Angeles, Correctional HIV Consortium, Women and AIDS Network, and the California Association of Probation and Parole Officers.

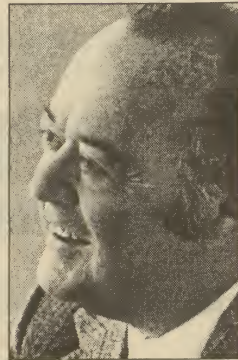
Villaraigosa told his assembly colleagues passage of the bill will result in "tremendous fiscal savings to taxpayers in this state." Yearly healthcare costs for terminally ill prisoners are more than \$75,000, and outside hospital care for prisoners totals more than \$3,500 per day. Healthcare for released prisoners would be shared by private agencies and the federal and state governments.

"Last year, Albert Brown, a

prisoner, lay in a vegetative state under armed guard at Marin General Hospital for six months before he died," Villaraigosa pointed out, "costing taxpayers over \$880,000."

"If AB 1408 had been law, Brown would have spent his last days at home with his family," he said.

East Bay Republican Richard Rainey of Walnut Creek spoke in support of AB 1408 on the Assembly floor, as did his GOP colleague Larry Bowler of Elk Grove. According to Rainey, the California Department of Corrections helped define some of the technical amendments on the bill. ▼



Sen. Milton Marks

Gay Prisoners Deprived of Religious Services, Suit Says

Inmate: All men in Alameda County Jail not treated equally

by Kent Brandley

An inmate at the Alameda County Jail in Dublin has filed a suit in U. S. District Court against Alameda County Sheriff Charles Plummer, alleging that he is deprived of his rights to participate in worship services because he is gay.

Kevin Borkowski, acting as his own attorney, says that inmates of the gay/bisexual housing unit at the jail have been denied full participation in religious worship services since last November, and that a priest was restricted from saying mass in the secluded gay unit.

The suit says the gay/bisexual

unit has no assigned chaplain, and gay inmates are not provided with any type of spiritual or religious programming.

Borkowski asks relief from the federal court, alleging that his First Amendment religious rights have been violated, as have equal protection rights under the 14th Amendment. ▼

SJ Lesbian Claims Discrimination

by Eric Payne

A longtime supporter and contributor to the financially beleaguered Gay Pride Celebration Committee of San Jose has been named as one of the defendants in a sexual orientation discrimination suit filed by an area lesbian.

Teri Baker, 27, has filed suit in the Superior Court claiming sexual harassment, employment discrimination, and the intentional infliction of emotional distress. Named as defendants in the action are Paul, Cheryl, and Mark Showerman, individually; Showerman Distributors, a beverage distribution firm; employees Vince Restucci, Pete Hofer, and Donald Thompson; and the Miller Brewing Company. Baker is seeking \$500,000 general damages and \$1 million in punitive damages.

Baker stated in her deposition she began working in Cheryl Showerman's office as part of the administrative staff. Originally closeted, she claims she was "outed" by another Showerman's employee.

On September 25, 1992, Baker was leaving to attend an annual womyn's weekend festival at the Russian River. When she told the night manager — a previous resident of Guerneville — she was going camping, he made comment of "the lesbian weekend thing going on up there."

The Tuesday after her return, Paul Showerman allegedly ordered, "You will not interact in any conversation regarding your lifestyle with any employees. You will not discuss your sexual prefer-

ence in any way, and you will not talk to my daughter [Cheryl] about your life style."

In 1993 Baker became a sales representative for the company. Although the move was a promotion — and one she wanted — she alleges the job was given not for merit, but to move her away from Cheryl Showerman, who "did not want a lesbian working in her office."

Baker also alleges Paul Showerman rigged sales contests and promotions to ensure only straight, white persons were recognized for achievements. She claims witnesses can attest to Showerman instructing his computer analyst to alter report results so a trip for two to Cancun, Mexico was awarded to a white female, rather than the true recipient, a Hispanic woman. Baker also claims in her deposition that Showerman said he "would not have a lesbian represent my company on this cruise."

According to Baker, Showerman has been harassing her potential witnesses since the cause of action has been filed.

The Showermans declined to comment on the action, but attorney Bob Danneskiold of Ferrari, Alvarez, Olsen and Ottoboni, representing the distributorship, did say he believed the case has no merit.

"Showerman's does not treat their employees that way," he told the B.A.R. "Outside of that, I can't comment."

Bruce Nickerson, attorney for Baker, disagreed, and said that his client has "substantial witnesses to back her claim." ▼

Mondelli

Continued from page 1

"breached the standard of care of prudent physicians in the community by commencing and maintaining a social/romantic/sexual relationship while Freeman was Mondelli's psychiatric therapist."

The civil suit alleges that Freeman prescribed drugs with the intent to share them socially with Mondelli "even though the plaintiff was seeking treatment from Dr. Freeman for, among other things, a drug problem."

The suit reiterates charges that Freeman last July "assaulted, battered and attempted to murder"

Mondelli, and caused "serious and permanent physical and mental/emotional injuries."

The suit reveals that last January 25, Mondelli filed a claim with the City and County of San Francisco stating he intended to commence legal action for professional negligence and carelessness while in the care and treatment of the defendants.

The claim was denied on February 21, 1995.

The suit says that in addition to serious physical injuries, Mondelli suffered and continues to suffer severe and extreme emotional disturbance, shock, and injury to his nervous system.

Attorneys for both sides declined to comment on details of the case or speculate on possible dollar amounts that could be awarded to Mondelli. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Doctors and Women Still Clearing Basic AIDS Hurdles

by Mary Ann Swissler

When Alameda resident Carol Siporen shows up to deliver one of her speeches about HIV, people typically think she's in the wrong room. So when she turns out to be the featured expert on what it's like to be a person with AIDS, Siporen counts it as a victory of sorts: she has smashed another stereotype of the "type" of person who contracts AIDS.

Unfortunately, the 49-year-old Siporen told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "It seems to me that unless you get AIDS, people don't get the message." For example, women are finally hearing that, as a group, they are catching AIDS more, but there is still the misconception that it's primarily from IV drug use and not from the usual means — which, according to Siporen, is unprotected sex.

Dr. Katharine Clanon of Alameda County's Highland Hospital estimated that of the 606 AIDS patients treated at her clinic last year, 138 of them (23 percent) were women. Because she often sees women who were careful about sharing needles, but not as careful about safe sex or testing, she underscored the need for better education — and for early intervention, since she continues to see women at a fairly advanced stage of the virus.

Many of the patients at Highland escaped early detection by a physician because they lacked access to medical care. But Siporen said that even among women who have contact with medical care workers, "It's the last thing a doctor looks for," and as a result, she continues to see women who were diagnosed only in the later stages of AIDS.

Women are typically diagnosed only after their babies gets sick, when they come down with opportunistic diseases usually linked with HIV, or they turn up very low T-cell counts, she lamented.

"The whole problem is society," she told the *B.A.R.*, which still stigmatizes HIV testing. What she would like to see is a complete reassessment of the way women and their doctors perceive the test, where "It's not fear, it's power. You get a pap smear, you examine your breasts. You get an HIV test."

In her case, doctors tested her for diabetes three times because she is overweight, and did not test her for HIV — despite a recurrent yeast infection that spread to her skin and failed to respond to medication. She was finally tested, and tested positive, in 1990.

Siporen said she agrees with the position taken by the Centers

for Disease Control against mandatory testing; women should be given the education and the choice, she said. Mandatory testing would simply force HIV disclosure underground, causing even fewer people to get tested.

Trust, blame, and support

Before getting sexually involved with the man who ultimately transmitted HIV to her, Siporen told the *B.A.R.*, they were both tested. "Because he came from a high-risk group and I came from a high-risk group." She had been a student of popular culture during the pre-AIDS sexual revolution (or, as she put it, "like, way out there in the '60s and '70s and '80s" until she decided to "clean up her act" and seek out a stable relationship in 1987), and the man she eventually married had been an IV drug user.

After she got word from her doctor that she had tested negative, and after her fiancée told her he, too, was negative, Siporen said she felt safe. "I never thought anybody could lie about that," she said; she was wrong.

The truth began to surface when Siporen got pregnant and took a pre-natal AIDS test, which was followed up with a telephone call from a public health nurse. "She said that someone I had slept with within the past year had been diagnosed with the virus. So I needed to get tested again." (She ultimately aborted the fetus because of the virus; she has two grown boys). "It never crossed my mind that it was my husband," she said, even though he had been her only sex partner since they were tested in 1987. "I just figured it must be something from my past." Still, Carol followed doctor's orders, got tested, and got the news.

"And it turned out that he was infected, too. He denied it."

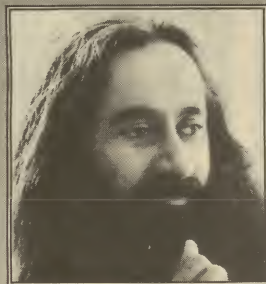
"Actually," she recalled, "he blamed me, about my past life, how many men I had slept with. I was one of these women who just took the blame for everything. ... And he didn't want me to tell anyone," in his family or hers. She followed along with this for two years, during which time she racked her brains about whom she could have contracted HIV from.

Carol went a little nuts from all the secrecy, she said. Thankfully, she found support. "I decided to get connected to a support group and to try to get into therapy. I needed to figure out all these issues because it was really bothering me that he didn't want me to tell my children, and I didn't know how to tell my children. All these issues started to come up."

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Watching a disaster on TV

Then one night while they were lying in bed watching a news piece on women and HIV, Carol received a shock second only to her original diagnosis. She watched and listened to an HIV-positive woman explain to the world how she had contracted the virus from a man she had been married to.

The man was Siporen's current husband.

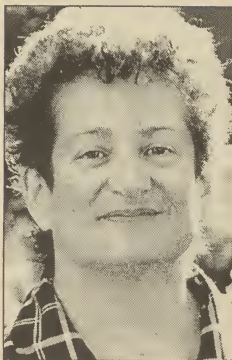
He quickly switched off the television — and instead of apologizing for the lie he perpetrated, he merely asked, "Are you going to leave me?"

Just as she felt after her positive test results, Siporen felt numb, informing her husband she was not capable of making any decisions.

After that, she said, everything fell in place, especially the secrecy. Through a series of contacts, she met the woman she had first seen on television. "By that time I was really demoralized." And her husband was still in denial about the risks of transmitting HIV.

Siporen found out he had also slept with other women, with whom he also failed to reveal his status. "I pushed the redial on the phone after he went to bed one night. This woman answered the phone and I said, 'Hi. This is Carol.' Then, 'I think you've been sleeping with my husband and there's something I need to tell you.'"

Siporen said the woman said her husband claimed he was divorced. And then she filed for divorce. "I finally got the mes-



Carol Siporen

sage that it was better to be alone than to be with someone who was that dishonest."

Common ground at WORLD

She soon discovered how common her experience was, through involvement with East Bay non-profit organizations like Center For AIDS Services and WORLD, Women Organized To Respond To Life-threatening Diseases. "When I got free of him I got really involved in the community trying to support other women, to get help for myself, and to connect with other women. What WORLD did for me at my first retreat was that you find out you are not alone," that you can fall in love and get married after a positive HIV diagnosis.

It also provides a group where women with HIV can discuss matters of concern and pass along vital information they don't get from doctors; for instance, Siporen said that although her doctors still deny that problems with her menstrual cycle are AIDS-related, "Every [HIV-positive] woman that I've ever talked to has had problems." She said most doctors either believe they know everything about the effects of AIDS drugs on women, or else know absolutely nothing about women and HIV.

Now that Siporen is dealing with estrogen supplements as part of menopause, she and her doctors are mostly applying guesswork about their effects on her T-cell count. "There just hasn't been enough research," she said.

Including women in clinical trials has filled in some of the blanks. Still, Siporen observed, "It's not as easy for women to get into trials as men. I can't really say that I've actually been denied anything. I just don't think they advertise as much for women." Dr. Clanton said that thanks to women activists, about eight to nine percent of big clinical trials are now made up of HIV-positive women.

Siporen, a heterosexual woman, said she has boundless gratitude for the gay community, which has provided all PWAs with "a press that informs in detail on a weekly basis, and a community that really cares."

"If it wasn't for the gay community," she said, "we wouldn't have had any services." ▼

Women's AIDS Network Blasts CDC study suspension

by Kent Brantley

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) dropped a bombshell during a Congressional hearing in May, when it announced its HIV Survey in Childbearing Women would be suspended. The Women's AIDS Network, a San Francisco-based organization, immediately condemned the suspension of the largest federal survey tracking HIV infection in women.

The hearing focused on the Newborn Infant HIV Notification Act, a bill introduced by Representative Gary Ackerman (D-NY), requiring that the survey be "unblinded" — changing it from an anonymous epidemiological survey into a tool for individual diagnosis that would have tested childbearing women for HIV without their knowledge or consent.

A similar bill was introduced in the California State Legislature by Senator Tim Leslie (R-Carmelien Bay), Rachel Maddow of Women's AIDS Network told the B.A.R.

Although the CDC's decision to halt the survey circumvents Ackerman's bill in the short run, proponents indicate it may be amended to require the CDC to resume the study in an unblinded manner, or simply to establish mandatory testing independent of the study.

"If a mandatory testing bill is successful and if the CDC decides to permanently cancel the survey, we will simultaneously begin nonconsensually testing a significant portion of the female population and end our best method for planning care and services for this population," said Eileen Hansen, president of the Women's AIDS Network.

"Suspending the survey makes absolutely no public health sense," Hansen said. "The decision may stop Ackerman's current proposal, but it also caves in to political pressure from those who would mandate testing and ignores the importance of the survey. No one disputes the fact that this is one of the best tools for planning the fight against HIV infection in women."

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Frederick Paul Levy
Dec. 27, 1955 - May 27, 1995

Our dear friend Fred left us after a very long and painful struggle with AIDS.

Fred had a lifelong passion for music and was a popular radio personality on several stations, including KZOZ and KSLY, both broadcasting from San Luis Obispo, California. He also helped design the stereo system, supplied the records, and eventually deejayed at the first gay bar (The Journey's Inn) in San Luis Obispo.

When Fred moved to the Bay Area, he first deejayed at The Answer in Redwood City. Later he deejayed at the 'N' Touch and the End Up. Fred will best be remembered at The Badlands and The Phoenix, where he worked for eight years. Fred's personal collection of oldies records was a great success at The Badlands.

Fred will be missed by many, including his beloved cat Gus. For information regarding a pending memorial, please contact J.R. Bell at 648-0348.

James Lee Branstetter
May 31, 1948 - Feb. 22, 1995

James Lee Branstetter, 46, the Baton Man of Haight Street, who was also a meditation and spiritual guide to many, was reborned February 22.

James Lee was born in Darlington, Ind., halfway between Honey and Sugar Creeks. He graduated from Purdue University and taught drama and English at Benton Central High School.

He arrived in San Francisco in November 1978 and lived in the Haight until May 1994. A memorial in his honor is planned for June 17 and will include a tree planting at the new Richard M. Cohen Residence on Dolores Street.

James Lee is survived by his brothers, John and Michael Branstetter, both of Miami, Fla., and his lover, Ron Fields of San Francisco.



Dr. Carlos H. Amaya
1951 - 1995

Dr. Carlos H. Amaya passed away at Davies Medical Center May 27. His longtime companion, Ted Peterson, and his sister, Alicia Eldayat, were with him during the final hours of his life.

Carlos was born in El Salvador. He completed his medical studies there, graduating with high honors. He practiced medicine in San Salvador for several years before coming to the U.S. He continued his medical career in this country by becoming a private nurse.

Among others, he saw many of his closest friends through their final ordeal. This was one of his greatest legacies. He had a great sense of loyalty to his friends and a great sense of humanity.

Carlos had too many friends to mention who stood with him until the end, but he wanted to give Ariel O'Donnell a special thanks. He requested that a special thanks also go to Dr. Krampf, Dr. Silverberg and Dr. Cazen, all of whom attended him during his final months. He also wanted to acknowledge the wonderful nursing staff, 2nd Floor North of Davies.

He leaves behind in San Francisco his sister, Alicia, and in El Salvador his devoted mother, Flora; father, Noe; sisters, Rina and Evelyn; and brothers, Mario, Alfredo and Luis.



John Mason Curtis
Feb. 14, 1951 - May 11, 1995

Friends and loved ones mourn the passing of Mason Curtis.

Originally from Portland, Ore., Mason studied dance with the Joffrey Ballet in New York. He returned to the West Coast in the '80s and established a career in television production, working on music videos, commercials and live rock concerts.

Now clean and sober he began to work as a freelance video producer as well as an associate producer for KQED. He was then hired by the BBC, which led to Mason's proudest achievement: the four-part documentary *A Time of AIDS*, for which he was nominated for two Cable Ace Awards.

Mason is survived by his partner, Kimo Auwae; parents, Terrance Jack and Marjorie; brothers, Bruce, Mark and Michael; sister, Kathleen Bohlin; and six nephews.

A celebration of life service will be held at Park Hill Chapel, 355 Buena Vista Ave. East, on Sunday, June 25, at 1 p.m.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made.



Bruce Allen Towne
Dec. 9, 1965 - May 24, 1995

Bruce was a man who was beautiful inside as well as out, a big-hearted man who touched the lives of everyone he came in contact with.

He was raised in Morgan Hill and lived in San Jose, but some of his best times were spent in San Francisco, where he made a lot of friends and felt he fit in.

He was diagnosed with HIV in 1987 but lived a relatively healthy life until the end without suffering any of the advanced effects of AIDS.

In speaking with his friends, some of whom lived out of state, all had stories to tell about how he touched their lives. I'm glad they were there for him, even though they were miles away.

My heartfelt thanks go to Sheri and Jaren, who were always there for him.

He is survived by his parents, Leroy and Doris; his twin sister, Becky; sister, Julie; and his companion, partner and friend, Darryl Washington.



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Mark Spainhower

Jan. 20, 1961 - May 27, 1995

Mark died Saturday, May 27, at Maitri Hospice.



Mark's life sparked fun and controversy in San Diego (where he was born and raised), San Francisco, Berkeley, New York, Seattle and internationally. Difficult to summarize, he was a graphic artist, writer, drag queen, editor, performance artist and musician.

Particularly when in drag, with Mark's ferocious appearance, 6'3" height, stiletto heels and black wig, only one word could describe him - *formidable*! (He was one of the few people known to have actually received a bow from Camille Paglia!) Mark did not wallow in safe conventionality - he was intensely honest in his loves and hates and demanded this same intensity from his loved ones.

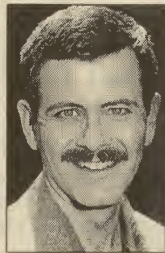
Mark collaborated with many notables, including Diamanda Galas, Christine Ambrosia and James Grauerholz. He edited the *Ward Report*, *ReSearch*, private publications and authored published articles. Civic-minded forays included: ACT UP, BioChemAssociates, Boy With Arms Akimbo, Klubstitute, Gay Guns, High-Heeled Wrestling, House of the Golden Bull, Radical Faeries and who knows...?

Mark is now with many close friends, and we wish him a happy eternity. Behave yourself out there, Mark! We love you! (Donations to Maitri Aids Hospice appreciated.)

Sam P. Bittner

November 15, 1949 - May 16, 1995

Sam was the kind of man most men aspire to become. He shared his joie de vivre, his music, his architectural talent, his enthusiasm for his friends and their successes and his unending love of family. Sam believed in the goodness of all people and demanded everyone try harder to be the best they could be. He knew in his heart this was the way to a better world. Sam has found his better world now, but he will always be with those he touched.



Sam grew up on an Illinois farm - a place he never stopped loving. Preceded in death by his father, John, he is survived by his lover Tom; his mother, Alice; two sisters, Dottie and Marcy; and a brother, Bob.

Graduated from the University of Illinois in 1972 with a degree in Architectural Engineering, he worked for many Bay Area architecture firms including Skidmore, Owings and Merrill; Space Management and Design Group; and most recently for Camino Health Care, Mountain View.

From his first formal piano lessons at the age of five, he pursued a never-ending musical adventure. He performed in musical comedy, at Cornstalk Theatre in Peoria, Illinois, sang with the Oakland Opera, West Bay Opera Company, the Lamplighters, the San Francisco Talent Bank, the SFGMC and the Community Chorus. Sam performed lieder and other classical recitals as well as original cabaret shows of his own. He was a soloist for St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Church of the Advent of Christ the King in San Francisco and St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Oakland.

Thank you Sam for sharing your life with us. We shall miss your gentle, kind and loving manner and the smile that made the room fill with light - God bless you, and may His angels keep you ... always.

"...Time allows, in all his tuneful turning,
so few and such morning songs before the children,
Green and Golden, follow him, out of Grace..."
- Dylan Thomas

Remembrances may be sent
in memory of Sam Bittner to:

Golden Gate Choral Foundation
50 Oak Street, Suite 304
San Francisco, CA 94102

Charlie O'Malley

April 15, 1955 - June 1, 1995

Oakland native Charlie O'Malley, 40, died June 1 at his home in Napa from AIDS complications.

Charlie was a cowboy, landscape architect, real estate appraiser and an AIDS activist representing rural persons' health-care needs. He was instrumental in establishing the Napa Valley Health Care Consortium under the Ryan White CARE Act and in the statewide decision-making process. He was also a regional representative of the League for Individual Freedom and Equality.

Charlie is survived by his parents, Joseph and Lorraine O'Malley of Willows, Calif.; sister, Patricia O'Malley of Snohomish, Wash.; and his life partner, Michael Larson.

Services will be held in Napa. Contributions to either the Napa Valley HIV Care Consortium, c/o Napa Valley F.A.N.S., 1920-B Lernhart, Napa, CA 94558 or L.I.F.E. League, California Rural AIDS Project, 926 J St., Ste. 522, Sacramento, CA 95814 have been suggested in lieu of flowers. ▼

Robert "Clay" Wyman

July 9, 1969 - May 11, 1995

Robert quietly slipped away after fighting a brave battle. At his bedside were his mother, Joyce Wyman; brother, Richard; sister, Tamara; and his long-time companion, Mamie Hopkins. A memorial service was held May 14 in San Leandro, and Robert's ashes were scattered during a private ceremony at the Golden Gate Bridge. Robert will forever be missed. ▼



James B. Short

May 25, 1995

An Ohio native, Jim, 65, died from cancer in Santa Clara, Calif., May 25. He came to California from Florida in the early '60s and worked in the hair-dressing business for many years.

Jim was very active in the "All Male Theatre" here and appeared in many productions. His best-remembered role was Nora Muldoon, the nanny to little Patrick in Robert Michaels' 1980 production of *Mame*.

Jim was an avid sailor and yachtsman, as well as an instructor in seamanship and sailing. He was also a master in re-creating the hairstyles of the '20s, '30s and '40s, besides designing and knitting the most beautiful sweaters.

His last employment was at San Bruno Lumber before retiring on disability in 1984. The Neptune Society was in charge of his service, and his ashes were scattered at sea. At his request no memorial services were held. You are gone, dear friend, but not forgotten. ▼

David Chi

The friends of David Chi wish to announce that there will be a memorial gathering and celebration of his life on Saturday, June 10. We will gather at Sigmund Stern Grove/Pine Lake Day Camp, which is near the intersection of Vale and Crestlake in the City.



Please bring mementos, photographs and other items to share. Meet at 10:30 a.m.; memorial begins at 11 a.m.; potluck picnic following. For details call Henry at (415) 333-4684. ▼

Ronald "Ronnie" J. Olgiati

May 25, 1995

Ronnie departed this world on May 25 to soar on a higher spiritual plane and be my own guardian angel. He was surrounded by his parents, Carl and Thelma Olgiati; his aunt, Marianne Olgiati; my mother, Yvonne Oakes; and myself, his soulmate and life-time companion, Brian J. Oakes.



My spirit will always be dimmer without you to light my way. But there shall be no farewells, my love! Though I miss holding you in my arms, we share a special love and our spirits will intertwine once again!

Love forever - Brian. ▼

Salvatore "Sam" Nuccio Jr.

June 1, 1995

Sam, 50, passed away at his home in Sunnyvale, Calif., June 1. For the past five years, he was the program/marketing director of California's Historic Estate for the Arts - Villa Montalvo.

Sam was the loving son of the late Salvatore and Rose Nuccio and the life companion of the late Dave Long. He is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Joe and Rhody Nuccio, and their family.

Sam was a native of Tampa, Fla., and received his B.A. at the University of Florida and his master's at the University of Indiana. He moved to the Bay Area in 1973 and pursued a career in the arts and entertainment field. He was company manager for Theatre Flamero in San Francisco for approximately seven years.

Sam's many loyal and loving friends are invited to attend a visitation on Sunday, June 11, from noon-8 p.m. at the Mountain View Chapel of Spangler Mortuaries, 799 Castro St., Mountain View. Services will be Monday, June 12, at noon at the Gate of Heaven Catholic Cemetery's chapel, 22555 Cristo Rey Drive, Los Altos. Donations may be made in Sam's name to VNA, Aris Project or hospice programs. ▼

Scott Alan Cissna

Oct. 27, 1960 - May 23, 1995

Scott Alan Cissna, 34, quietly passed away May 23 in Mount Vernon, Ind. He was born in Evansville, Ind., and was a Class of '79 graduate of Mount Vernon High School. He attended the University of Houston and later enlisted in the United States Navy, where he was awarded "Sailor of the Quarter" in 1982 for the Atlantic Fleet.



Scott lived in Wichita briefly during his teenage years before moving to Houston with his best friend Billy. They later moved to San Francisco, where they lived until 1985 before moving to San Diego. His last years were spent living in Palm Springs, where he enjoyed the beauty of the mountain sunrises and sunsets.

He is survived by a loving mother, Linda Bryan; father, Gary Cissna; stepfather, Charles Bryan; brother, James Morris; grandmother, Helene Cissna; several aunts and uncles; and his best friend and confidant of over 17 years, Billy Cates.

Contributions may be made in his memory to the Desert AIDS Project, Palm Springs, California - (619) 323-2118. ▼

Bill "Billie" F. Woods

May 28, 1995

Bill, 55, passed on May 28 from cancer in Mountain View, Calif. A native of Texas, he is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Ronny K. Woods; nephew, Randy; niece, Stacy; and his companion of 33 years, Louis A. Racine of Sunnyvale, Calif.



Bill was a veteran of the U.S. Navy. His early life and schooling were in Texas. Upon completing cosmetology school he came to San Francisco in the early '60s. He worked in various shops around town, and he and his companion owned their own business on Van Ness Ave. After selling the business Bill was a consultant for the San Mateo County Health Department in their AIDS program.

Bill and Lou lived on Caselli Street for some years, then moved to Belmont and later to Sunnyvale. Bill was very active in the "All Male Theatre" and the "Universe BusGroupe." He was in *Light Up the Sky*, *Once Upon a Mattress* and *George Washington Slept Here*. His best-remembered role was little Gloria Upson in Robert Michaels' 1980 production of *Mame*.

Memorial services were held at the Congregational Church in Belmont, and interment was in Plainview, Texas, beside his mother, father and younger brother. ▼

Roy Bell III

July 6, 1944 - May 29, 1995

A Vietnam veteran, Roy was personal hairdresser to Alma Spreckels and an employee of Letterman and the Veterans Hospital at Ft. Miley until illness forced his retirement in January 1994.



An original member of the Nob Hill Players, Roy is well-remembered for many parts, especially as the wicked stepmother in *Cinderella*.

A native of Shreveport, La., Roy lived in Honolulu after his discharge from the Navy before returning to San Francisco for the past 18 years. Roy leaves his mother and father, Jessie Pearl and Roy Jr.; brothers, Jeffrey and Dennis; and beloved sisters, Carol and Melody.

Locally, Roy will be greatly missed by his best friend, Jim Doan, and devoted friends, Ann, Liz, Paul and George, Greta Grass, Sweet Lips, Jerry Peloquin and so many others.

Many thanks to the Nursing Home Care Unit First Floor at Ft. Miley for caring for Roy during his final days.

A celebration of Roy's life will be held at Company Cocktail Lounge, 1319 California St., on Saturday, June 24, at 3 p.m. Please join us to celebrate the life of a truly unique individual...our one and only Boom-Boom. Au revoir, mon ami. ▼

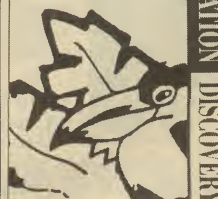
William C. "Bill" Hicks

May 12, 1995

William C. "Bill" Hicks, 71, died in San Francisco May 12 of natural causes. He was the beloved cousin of Betty Jean Harrington and Sharon Berlin, and a longtime San Francisco resident who leaves many friends here.

No funeral services will be held. Memorial services are pending. Donations may be made to the SF Humane Society. ▼

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LGDI069 for Kaposi's Sarcoma

A new retinoid gel for topical application to KS lesions. Provides a non-cytotoxic option for people with skin KS. 8 week study with option to continue if the gel is safe and effective. Sponsored by Ligand Pharmaceuticals.

Delavirdine (U-90, BHAP)

Two studies available: first, for people with 200-500 CD4 and less than 6 months of AZT, a double-blind comparison of AZT plus DLV vs. AZT plus placebo; second, for people with fewer than 300 CD4 and less than 4 months of ddI, a double-blind comparison of ddI plus DLV vs. ddI plus placebo. Upjohn.

Nevirapine

Two groups of volunteers with 200-500 CD4: those who have taken AZT for 4-24 months, who receive either AZT plus NVP or AZT plus placebo, and those who have not taken antiretrovirals, who receive NVP or placebo. The study offers cross-over to active drug for all participants. Boehringer Ingelheim.

DaunoXome

This is a phase III study using DaunoXome for people with Kaposi's Sarcoma with pulmonary involvement. Other forms of treatment for KS must be discontinued at least two weeks prior to treatment. This study is sponsored by Vestar, Inc.

DaunoXome

This is a compassionate use protocol for people who have advanced KS. Patients receive infusions twice a month and may continue indefinitely. This study is sponsored by Vestar, Inc.

For further information, please call the Client Care Coordinator at (415) 353-6215. HIVCare is a program of the Clinical Research Department at Saint Francis Memorial Hospital, 900 Hyde St., SF 94109.

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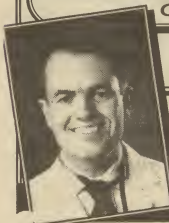
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OBITUARIES

Michael Doerr

May 30, 1995

Michael Doerr died on Tuesday, May 30, at his home in Berkeley of lung and brain cancer. He was 63 years old. Growing up in Southern California, he attended Polytechnic School in Pasadena, Thacher School in Ojai and Yale University. He graduated from Stanford University and received a master's in Library Science from the University of Southern California. He worked with the *Los Angeles Mirror*, the *Los Angeles Times* and the *San Francisco Examiner* as a financial reporter and editor. During the more than 20 years he lived in San Francisco, he was an active member of Alcoholics Anonymous. The son of the late Albert Edward Doerr, he leaves his mother, Harriet Doerr, of Pasadena, and his sister, Martha Doerr Toppin, of Oakland. Insatiable reader, innovative gardener, talented and frustrated painter, articulate and curious, a lifelong explorer at the outposts of language, he sought and discovered the single right word. He had an ability to clarify complexity. There will be no services. Contributions may be sent to a favorite charity. ▼

Sister Eileen DeLong

Sept. 2, 1916 - May 30, 1995

Sister Eileen DeLong's 18-year love affair with gay/lesbian Catholics ended here on earth with her death from cancer in St. Paul, Minn., May 30. Her local memorial Mass and reception will be Monday, June 19, 7:30 p.m., 7th Ave. Presbyterian Church, SF. Bring photos or mementos.

Fifty years a Good Shepherd Sister, she worked full-time 1977-1984 in her Bay Area gay/lesbian ministry. She organized Catholics for Human Dignity to fight Briggs' anti-gay Proposition 6. At the final rally, she spoke with Harvey Milk.

"Dissent is our gift to the Church," was Sr. Eileen's message in her homily to 400 at Dignity/SF's Mass during the papal visit. She organized Dignity/East Bay and worked on ecumenical and justice projects at Berkeley's Graduate Theological Union, where she earned her doctorate in theology. From 1984 until her final illness, Sr. Eileen worked in a Seattle Catholic parish, continuing her Dignity/AIDS/gay/lesbian ministry.

Colleagues have organized a scholarship fund to continue her gay/lesbian ministry. Checks may be sent to Volunteers Exchange International, VET/DeLong Endowment Fund, P.O. Box 1013, Berkeley, CA 94701. ▼

Pavel Prucha

Jan. 14, 1963 - May 31, 1995

The familiar figure of the blond, longhaired, beautiful boy on his skateboard rolled out of our lives on May 31. Born and raised in San Francisco during the '60s values of loving, giving, caring and sharing (and a few of the '60s vices!). Pavel would be pleased if you would carry on those values in loving memory of him. "Even a smile or a dime makes a helpless person feel human," he would say.

Our unending gratitude to St. Mary's Hospital Care Unit 4-South, where those very special people gave amazingly loving care and comfort to all of us. Pavel will be greatly missed by sisters, Yvonne and Jana; his relatives, especially Colleen, Gena and Colin; longtime special friends, Artie, James, Sandy and Wayne; and his friends in the Castro.

His mother Robbin, who was proud to be Pavel's best friend, his father Miro, and his soul-mate Stan, who tirelessly cared for and comforted the love of his life, were with him when Pavel skateboarded off on his last, and best, ride.

A celebration will be held in Pavel's honor at Uncle Bert's on Tuesday, June 13, 6-9 p.m. ▼



Obituary policy

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization - and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap.

Deadline for all obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m.

Joseph "Joel" McPherson

Oct. 21, 1942 - May 10, 1995

Joel quietly passed over to the other side, in his sleep on the afternoon of May 10. His love of life was very strong and touched all who knew him.

An East Coast boy (Providence, R.I.) who

found a home here in Baghdad by the Bay some 25 years ago, his love of life and dancing was legendary. "No parking on the dance floor, baby" was his all-time favorite saying. And I'm sure he would agree that "No parking on the dance floor of life, baby" is appropriate for all.

Joel, thanks for the many memories and good times. You will be sorely missed but not ever forgotten.

Joel is survived by William Oberhoffer, his longtime companion of 15 years; his son, Joseph; sister, Linda Ramson; aunt, Gert Amado; cousin, Al; his wife, Pat McPherson; and numerous relatives and friends in the East. Many, many friends here in the City, especially South of Market, will truly miss you.

Good-bye, Joel. We love you. "Aurevoir." ▼

Joey Monteleone

June 6, 1951 - May 28, 1995

Joey died gracefully and peacefully at 7:49 p.m. on Sunday, May 28, after spending his last week with the loving care of his mother, Mary. At the last moment, he was surrounded by his lover and best friend, Bruce, and their very good friends, Ann, Gil and JD.

Joey was born in Lakewood, near Long Beach. He graduated from Paramount High School in 1969 and Compton College in 1971 with an associate degree in journalism. He moved to San Francisco in 1975 and made many friends at the Trocadero in the '70s and the Balcony in the early '80s. He most recently worked at Wells Fargo Bank.

He is remembered for his endless capacity to love, his romantic ideals, his wit, his sense of humor, his homemaking and his ability to accessorize.

He is survived by his lover, Bruce Rutan; their cat, Eliot; mother, Mary Monteleone; and brothers, Anthony, Michael and John Albert. A memorial gathering was held at the Tulip Garden in Golden Gate Park on June 3. Contributions should be made to the Library Foundation of San Francisco, 220 Montgomery St., Ste. 406, San Francisco CA, 94114, attention: Bill Hayes. For further details, call 552-7185. ▼

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OBITUARIES

Richard Dennis Hedrick
Jan. 25, 1950 - May 18, 1995

Memorial services were held for Rich Hedrick at Grace Episcopal Church in Hutchinson, Kansas, after his ashes were buried next to his beloved grandmother in Fairlawn Burial Park, Hutchinson. He will also be remembered at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 101 Gold Mine Drive at Diamond Heights (across the street from Safeway), at the 8 p.m. service on Sunday, June 25.

Rich was born in Corpus Christi, Texas, the son of Richard and Bette Hedrick, and graduated from Hutchinson High School in 1968. He later graduated from Hutchinson Community College and Pittsburg State. After being the assistant football coach at Onaga, he moved to San Francisco, where he was offensive line coach for five years at San Francisco State University. He was a car salesman until he retired in 1993.

Rich is survived by his father and stepmother, Richard and Mollie Hedrick of Hutchinson; four brothers, Steve and Tom (also of Hutchinson), Cliff of Wichita and Bill of Fairbanks, Alaska; two sisters, Carla Wilbourn of Oklahoma City and Mary Douglas of Plano, Texas; two step-sisters, Nancy Soldner of Hutchinson and Sally Coberly of Gaithersburg, Maryland; and numerous other family members and friends here and at home. ▼

Winston H. Leu

July 27, 1955 - May 21, 1995

With tremendous courage, strength and dignity, Winston has joined the thousands of angels who have battled AIDS.

Winston took time to always be funny, kind and generous to friends and loved ones.

Who can forget his infamous "Hang-On to Your Hangover!" parties every New Year's Day, his gesturing and singing with Chinese opera music or disco, his Erte collection, the loud mahjong games or showing off his dark tans from vacations in Hawaii. People smiled and laughed with Winston around because of his infectious wit, sense of humor, style and zest for life.

A North Beach-raised native San Franciscan, Winston graduated from Galileo High and San Francisco State University with a bachelor's in business. With remarkable analytical, accounting and people skills, he developed an industrious career in supermarket management.

Like a rare piece of jade, Winston Leu was a very precious gift. Thanks, Anna Mae, for the special warmth you brought into our minds and hearts. Winston will be greatly missed by his parents, siblings, nieces, nephews, friends and faithful shar-pei dogs Tai and Chi - and especially by Steven Baker, his companion for life. ▼

HEALTH PERSPECTIVE

Early intervention saves lives

by Mark Bowers
ACT UP/Golden Gate Writers' Pool

It is unfortunately and undoubtedly true that young gay men are now seroconverting at an alarmingly high rate, despite the experience and the decimation of the generation of gay men immediately preceding them. When behavior modification strategies of AIDS prevention are clearly not working, it is time to revisit them, find out what went wrong, and change the paradigm. Unfortunately, a few "experts" have begun saying the psychological expense of getting tested for HIV antibodies is not worth the benefit of knowing that you are HIV positive. One of the supporting claims to that line of logic is that there is nothing that a person can do for the next three to seven years, so why bother to be tested?

In reality, early intervention saves lives.

For many, AIDS is a disease of wasting. Lean body mass is spent while fat mass is retained. The Kotler studies have reaffirmed in AIDS what was learned about the metabolic changes in Irish hunger strikers and World War Two prisoners of war: once a person loses about half of their lean body mass, death ensues. In many cases, despite what the death certificate says, the real cause of death is AIDS wasting.

The metabolic changes that accompany HIV disease start early and are continuous. They can be detected well before there is any weight loss. Many, such as lactose intolerance and vitamin deficiencies, can also be addressed immediately through several important complementary strategies. Physicians now know to provide HIV patients with nutritional consults. The dietary needs of an HIV positive person are different from those of an uninfected person, and dietary changes can be made immediately without any toxic side effects. The effects of changes in dietary habits early in the course of HIV disease are increased absorption of nutrients, better general health, and probably a longer asymptomatic period.

The story about metabolism doesn't end there. Physicians are increasingly aware that nutrition is only a first step in building up lean body mass in people with HIV. In addition to nutritional intervention as a way to prevent unwanted weight loss, some people in the community are experimenting with anabolic steroids, although there is little research on this approach in HIV-disease. Other hormonal therapies are also being used to treat wasting syndrome: these include synthetic progesterone and human growth hormone. Each of these strategies can be used in the context of HIV disease, and the positive results are startling.

Changes in the way people approach general health maintenance can be an important form of early intervention as well: elimination of harmful behaviors that speed disease progression are part of the general health maintenance strategy, as is the incorporation of progressive resistance exercise to build up stores of lean body mass. If

an increased amount of lean body mass is associated with a survival benefit of several years and increased quality of life, it makes sense to start in early.

One of the most important and most individualized early intervention strategies is stress reduction. No one stress reduction technique works for everyone, nor should we expect it to. Indeed, stress reduction is the very reason that some recommend not getting an HIV test. We would argue that the stress of an HIV test is worth it, while other stresses can be more easily eliminated at a lesser cost, both

Commentary

emotionally and physically.

The alternative is to stick your head in the sand and wait until you develop symptomatic HIV disease. There are early interventions available to those who learn their status when they have 1000 CD4+ T-cells and to those who learn their status when they have only ten. However, there are many more useful strategies that can be employed to enjoy a long and productive life if you learn your status early and act on that information right away.

There are some intrepid individuals who choose to use antiviral drugs before their CD4+ T-cell counts drop to 500. Aware that there is no life-threatening disease where physicians choose to wait for symptoms before they treat the disease, these individuals choose to fight the virus early. There are mixed reviews on the experimental evidence of such early antiviral intervention, but the reasoning is sound. And drugs that are currently in development may eventually be found to work best at higher CD4+ T-cell counts. Other individuals choose strategies without antivirals. Both are valid early responses and represent early intervention.

AIDS research has not come to a standstill. Progress is steady and continual. If you can buy more years of quality, symptom-free life by making early changes in diet, in exercise and rest, by stress reduction and the judicious use of antiviral strategies, you increase your chances that you will be around for the next advances in treatment that will eventually bring HIV disease under control.

Get tested. Intervene early. Learn your options. It is never too early (or too late) to take charge of your own health. ▼

ACT UP Golden Gate
meets every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at 592 Castro Street, upstairs.

ACTION UPDATE:

Abbott Labs is continuing to stonewall AIDS activists on provision of their protease inhibitor for compassionate use.

Call Abbott and demand they provide this experimental therapy to patients with few options left. Phone (708) 938-6277; fax (708) 938-4545.

Call ACT UP/Golden Gate for information on future actions at (415) 252-9200.

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Lesbians seek Gay Men to play "uncle"

OAKLAND - A new sperm bank, Rainbow Flag Health Services, plans to offer a new service to the Lesbian and Gay community: **known donor insemination**. They are recruiting Gay and Bisexual sperm donors for Lesbians and will tell the mother who the biological father is when the child is 3 months old. Under California law donors have no financial obligations nor any custody rights. Knowing the donor can be very important to the child. Some artificially conceived children start asking about their biological fathers as young as 3 and 4.

Being a known donor gives Gay Men, who do not want to raise children, an opportunity to have children in their lives, connects them to Lesbian families, and helps build community. Many Lesbians want donors to play "uncle" to their children. The demand for known donors is much greater than the supply. Rainbow Flag Health Services is recruiting donors of all ethnic backgrounds. If you are healthy, under 55 years old and are interested in being a known donor call for an appointment **(510)763-7737**

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Incompatible roommates

by Michael C. Botkin

Harvard University was recently jolted by the murder-suicide of two young women, pre-med students who were roommates. Last week one of the women attacked her roommate with a knife while she slept, stabbing her over 45 times. She then barricaded herself in a bathroom and hanged herself. The news reports have been vague as to what motivated the tragedy, but reading between the lines it sounds like this could be a case of Young Lesbian Homicide.

The story comes at a bad time for Harvard (although it's hard to think of a good time for such news), coming as it does on the heels of the Gina Grant story: Harvard had accepted the application of young Gina, based on her own story of how she'd overcome adversity and the death of her mother. The story had such wonderful feel-good potential that it got a lot of attention — enough that some person or persons sent the university clippings detailing exactly how Gina's mother died: beaten to death by her daughter with a lead crystal candle holder. Gina pleaded no contest, was tried as a minor, and given less than a year behind bars. Upon discovering this bit of history, Harvard decided not to accept Gina, falling back on the fact that she lied on her application, since, of course, Harvard has no specific rule against accepting

murderers.

This was rather expertly pointed out in a recent column in *The Nation* by Alexander Cockburn, who mentioned that Harvard granted a degree to the head of the Guatemalan secret service, even though at the time he'd been found guilty of ordering the deaths of hundreds of "state enemies," including some American citizens.

More bad PR for Harvard: it makes it look like they object to murder on a retail, but not a wholesale, basis.

Cockburn concluded by commenting (before it was clear if Gina would be let into Harvard or not) that she still had a chance to get in because the murder was done with lead crystal. "If it had been an ax, the best she could have done would have been University of Chicago."

So the last thing Harvard needs right now is a young lesbian murder story.

Extreme passions

What makes me think that lesbian lust has anything to do with this grisly scenario? A number of small points, some telling details, and the cagey, blank manner in which the story has been developed.

The two women had been roommates for two years, but one had just informed the other that she was planning to look elsewhere the coming year. Ms. Tadesse, who I identify as the just-dropped lover, had written a letter to her soon-to-be-ex-

roommate protesting the anticipated change. "I thought we were to do stuff together, you'll always have a family to go to and I am going to have no one," she wrote.

It's possible that it was a closeted lesbian relationship, with Tadesse not even being aware of the nature of her passion for Ms. Ho, her victim. But a couple of things make me doubt this.

Commentary

For one thing, the night before the murder/suicide Tadesse came home to find her room locked. We can't know what Ho was doing behind closed doors, but the fact that she was doing something (or someone) was enough, apparently, to send her roommate into a murderous rage.

And then there is the mysterious letter to the campus paper: a couple of days before the murder, it received a picture of Tadesse with a typed note reading: "Keep this picture. There will soon be a very juicy story involving the person in this picture." It's possible that the letter was sent by Tadesse herself, but it's also possible that she was being blackmailed and that this pushed her. Authorities are trying, in vain so far, to find out who sent the letter.

Finally, the whole affair just reeks of passions more extreme

than those aroused by roommates who just "didn't get along." In particular that Tadesse committed suicide after the murder suggests some sort of romantic motivation. Also, that she stabbed her roommate over 45 times tends to indicate some degree of heat.

Closet to grave

Of course, we can't know for sure what the cause of the whole sordid episode was. For what it's worth, if it were a lesbian homicide story, it's being handled just as would be expected by the PR-conscious Harvard crowd. The parents of the dead students have, not surprisingly, been uninterested in talking to the press; one even went so far as to disconnect the phone.

And one might ask, what difference does it make? They're both dead, and any secrets they might have are gone with them. It's a tragedy; does it matter if it's a lesbian tragedy?

I would argue that it does. Aside from the general issue of gay visibility, and specifically lesbian visibility, it raises the issue of mainstream control of the presentation of sexual orientation. No doubt any cover-up of homosexuality would be justified as "protecting" the victims, as though being lesbians were some sort of disgrace or dishonor.

Ultimately, the refusal to deal with the issue only makes it worse. It contributes to the stifling nature of the closet, which

makes it more difficult for people like Tadesse to get assistance that might help her stop short of murder and suicide.

It's possible that there isn't any lesbian angle to this story at all; that it was all a matter of Ho leaving Tadesse because "she would play her music too loud and was inconsiderate of her privacy," as the papers suggest.

It's also possible that Tadesse was motivated by sublimated lesbian desire and that she wasn't really even aware of what motivated her murderous behavior. In some ways I find this the most tragic possibility.

But I believe that there was some explicit lesbian activity between the two. The 45 stab wounds, and the fact that Tadesse hanged herself afterward, suggest a lot more passion than just about anything else could explain.

If this is a case of lesbian homicide, it shows the mainstream's determination to keep homosexuality out of the press. If it's not, it illustrates the difficulty of reading between the lines to figure out when queer topics are being glossed over. How can we be expected to believe anything we read in the papers?

Yeah, it's possible that this is just a case of roommates having incompatibility problems. But I think it's a case of faded love gone tragically astray. Once again, the closet converts, at surprisingly short notice, into the grave. ▼

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Continued from page 17

condition. We're going to have to deal with it.

"What we're aiming at - this is what is the reason for hope - is that we are convinced now that with combining different anti-viral methods in a synthetic drug or possible biological approaches ... we will be able in a few years, maybe even earlier - it may break quite soon in fact - be able to suppress this virus sufficiently so that the progression of disease, if it occurs, is so slow that people will have an extended, let's say, incubation period. Instead of being on average ten years, it will be on average 20 years or 30 years or 40 years. This will probably require continuing treatment."

The combination therapies may not be a "realistic solution yet for the Third World," she said, "but for a country like this I think people will soon stop developing AIDS altogether. They will have HIV disease

and they will need anti-viral treatment, but it will never reach the point that the immune system is so destroyed that they become susceptible to all sorts of other things. So the 'cure,' as we see it, is a prevention - it's what we call a secondary prevention of AIDS.

"It's not the primary prevention because we don't have a vaccine yet and not one in sight very closely," she said, "but a combination of education and safer sex - although that is not the solution either," she acknowledged, because of the often uncontrollable element of passion.

Passion, albeit a different kind, is something Krim is brimming with; it is the fight to control the disease that helps her carry on. And although the approach is scientific, the fight has become very, very personal. ▼

For more information about the June 20 "On Board for AmFAR" event in San Francisco, call Dave Brunetti at (415) 648-4644.

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HEALTH & COMMUNITY

ACT UP Golden Gate: meets Tues. nights, 7:30pm at Mobilization Against AIDS, 592A Castro St. Info: 252-9200.

ACT UP SF: committed to ending the AIDS crisis thru direct action. 1388 Haight St., #218 9417. Info: 522-2907.

AIDS Health Project: Mixed caregivers and women's caregivers groups; drop-in groups for HIV+ and PWA, more. Info, intake interviews: 476-3902.

AIDS/HIV Nightline provides telephone emotional support and crisis counseling. Volunteers needed: training begins soon. 984-1902.

Brothers Network Spring Support Groups: HIV and Recovery, Mondays, 6:30pm, 973 Market, Suite 650. Call for schedule of other groups: 356-8140.

The Caregiving Partnership: Learning the Art of Give and Take presented by KAIROS Support for Caregivers, Sat., June 10, 10am-4pm. \$35 donation per partnership. Registration: 861-0877.

Continuum HIV Day Services: an adult day health care facility for people with disabling HIV disease, located in the Tenderloin. Call 241-5500.

Directory of HIV Clinical Trials in the Bay Area: free Summer '95 edition. Call 476-9554.

Extra Positives: Social support group for HIV+ men under 40. Info: 522-9477.

Gay/Lesbian Legal Referral Service seeks gay-sensitive law students as Law Clerks, one 3-hr. shift/week at GLRS office, Oakland. Info: 621-3903.

Gay Men's STD/VD Clinic: Testing & treatment by & for gay men, free, every Sun. 5-7 pm. HIV antibody anonymous testing for women & men 12 or older, every Sun., 5-7 pm. 2339 Durant Ave at Dana, Berkeley. Wheelchair accessible. 644-0425 (non-voice TDD 548-8238 for disabled).

Gay Young Spirit, a new gay young men's social group (18-35) with a focus on spirituality, meets every other Thurs., 7:30pm, in SF. Call 703-7181.

Haight-Ashbury Free Clinics' Drug Detox, Rehabilitation and Aftercare Program, counseling and HIV education, free. Hector, 565-1909.

Healing Alternatives Foundation maintains public HIV/AIDS Treatment & Resource Library. Also Buyer's Club for health products. 1748 Market St. Info: 626-4053.

Hepatitis "B" Testing and vaccinations for young (15-23) gay and bisexual men, free. Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley. Sun., 5-7pm. (510) 644-0425.

Lyon-Martin Women's Health Center: Primary health care for women by women. Counseling, anonymous testing, prevention education, support groups for HIV + women. 1748 Market St. 565-7667.

LYRIC Youth Talkline seeks volunteers, especially people of color, transgenders and people under 18. Call Anne or Olga, 703-6150.

Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Support Group offers ongoing support groups for the HIV community, partners, friends and family. No fees. Also: **seeks volunteers** in conjunction with HIV Services at St. Mary's. 863-1581.

Preparing for the Later Stages of Care, presented by KAIROS Support for Caregivers, Sat., June 10, 10am-4pm. \$35 donation. Registration: 861-0877.

Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida provides peer counseling, legal assistance, workshops, therapy and housing referrals, free. 864-7278.

UCSF AIDS Health Project offers: (1) ongoing groups for persons diagnosed with KS; (2) Tues. night support group for women who are caregivers or family members of PWAs; (3) support group for HIV+ African-American heterosexual men. Info: 476-3902.

Send Health and Community Listings to: Calendar Editor, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103.

LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 196156

The following person(s) are doing business as D & D PARTNERS, 1320 Lakeview Drive, Hillsborough, CA 94010. DENNIS W. JERMAINE, 1920 Lakeview Drive, Hillsborough, CA 94010 and DAVID CARO, 1549 Kings Wood Drive, Hillsborough, CA 94010. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of January 1, 1989. This business is conducted by co-partners. Signed DENNIS W. JERMAINE. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on June 05, 1995.

June 8, 15, 22, 29, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 195910

The following person(s) are doing business as BLACK BEARD, 319 10th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. VINCENT BLACK, 824 A Valencia, San Francisco, CA 94110. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of May 25, 1995. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed VINCENT E. J. BLACK. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on May 25, 1995.

June 8, 15, 22, 29, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 195967

The following person(s) are doing business as GAYLORD COMMUNICATIONS, 1700 Bay Street #103, San Francisco, CA 94123. PETER GAYLORD, 1700 Bay Street #103, San Francisco, CA 94123. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of May 30, 1995. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed PETER GAYLORD. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on May 30, 1995.

June 8, 15, 22, 29, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 196066

The following person(s) are doing business as ATLANTIC ENTERPRISE, 633 Post Street #606, San Francisco, CA 94109. SERGEY I. ROMANCHENKO, 724 Bountly Drive #2403, Foster City, CA 94404. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of June 01, 1995. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed SERGEY I. ROMANCHENKO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on June 01, 1995.

June 8, 15, 22, 29, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 196042

The following person(s) are doing business as COLEMAN COMMUNICATION, 1330 10th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122. BEVERLY WRIGHT COLEMAN, 1330 10th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of May 01, 1995. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed BEVERLY COLEMAN. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on May 31, 1995.

June 8, 15, 22, 29, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 196035

The following person(s) are doing business as GENEALOGY SF, 109 Stratford Drive, San Francisco, CA 94132. BRIAN MAVROGEORGE, 109 Stratford Drive, San Francisco, CA 94132. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed BRIAN MAVROGEORGE. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on May 31, 1995.

June 8, 15, 22, 29, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 195489

The following person(s) are doing business as SPLASH RESEARCH, 552 Roosevelt W Way, San Francisco, CA 94114. ANDREW R. MACBRIDE, 552 Roosevelt W Way, San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed ANDREW R. MACBRIDE. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on May 08, 1995.

May 18, 25, 1995, June 1, 8, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 195529

The following person(s) are doing business as GREEN FISH TRADING, 2160 Steiner Street, San Francisco, CA 94115. PATRICK BLACKWELDER, 2160 Steiner Street, San Francisco, CA 94115. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed DANIEL P. BLACKWELDER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on May 10, 1995.

May 18, 25, 1995, June 1, 8, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 195592

The following person(s) are doing business as PROFESSIONAL COMPUTER CONSULTANTS, 580 Powell Street, Apt #602, San Francisco, CA 94108. DEIDRA KAY DePREE, 560 Powell Street, Apt #602, San Francisco, CA 94108 and JULI GEISER, 45 Mars Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by co-partners. Signed DEIDRA DePREE. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on May 11, 1995.

May 18, 25, 1995, June 1, 8, 1995.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 968743

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of JASON BRODERSEN for change of name. The application of JASON BRODERSEN for change of name, having been filed in Court, and appearing from said application that JASON TODD BRODERSEN has filed an application proposing that name be changed to JASON DERICKSON BRODERSEN. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before the Court in Department X-4 on the 22nd day of JUNE 1995, at 9:00 o'clock am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the Bay Area Reporter a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated the 2ND day of May, 1995.

May 18, 25, 1995, June 1, 8, 1995

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 195389

The following person(s) are doing business as INTERIOR EXPRESSIONS, 2775 Market Street, Suite 303, San Francisco, CA 94114. ROGER DEAN BANKS, 2775 Market Street, Suite 303, San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed ROGER D. BANKS. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on May 04, 1995.

May 25, 1995, June 1, 8, 15, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 195927

The following person(s) are doing business as COBALT BLUE, 2256 Market Street #C, San Francisco, CA 94114. EVAN RUSSEL DEERFIELD, 2256 Market Street #C, San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed EVAN DEERFIELD. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on May 25, 1995.

June 8, 15, 22, 29, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 195694

The following person(s) are doing business as JASMINE HOUSE RESTAURANT, 2301 Clement Street, San Francisco, CA 94121. PERRY PONG P. LAM, 1262 25th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122. CHUN TAK HO, 1710 Geneva Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94134, and HI LIN TSOI, 1262 25th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of May 16, 1995. This business is conducted by a general partnership. Signed PERRY LAM. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on May 16, 1995.

May 25, 1995, June 1, 8, 15, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 195844

The following person(s) are doing business as B.M.B. CONSTRUCTION CO., 2 Dunsuir Street, San Francisco, CA 9413. BRYAN MICHAEL BIRMINGHAM, 2 Dunsuir Street, San Francisco, CA 94134. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed BRYAN M. BIRMINGHAM. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on May 23, 1995.

June 1, 8, 15, 22, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 195764

The following person(s) are doing business as WARMCOVE COMMUNICATIONS, 1100 Tennessee Street, San Francisco, CA 94107. SHARON COLLIGAN, 830 Treat Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94110. LEVER INDUSTRIES, INC., 1100 Tennessee Street, San Francisco, CA 94107. NEIL MARSHALL, 830 Treat, San Francisco, CA 94110. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of 5/14/95. This business is conducted by a general partnership. Signed SHARON COLLIGAN. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on May 18, 1995.

June 1, 8, 15, 22, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 195857

The following person(s) are doing business as TANTA PRODUCTION, 1637 Sacramento Street, Suite 7, San Francisco, CA 94109. RICHARD J. BERNIER, 1637 Sacramento #7, San Francisco, CA 94109 and GEORGE D. PELHAM, 1637 Sacramento #7, San Francisco, CA 94109. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of May 23, 1995. This business is conducted by a general partnership. Signed RICHARD BERNIER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on May 23, 1995.

June 1, 8, 15, 22, 1995.

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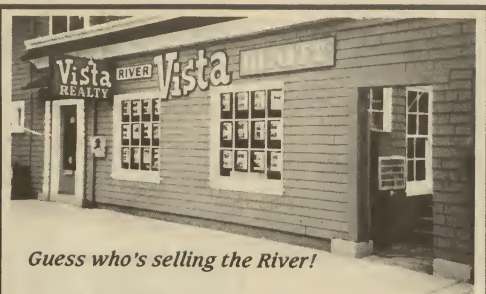
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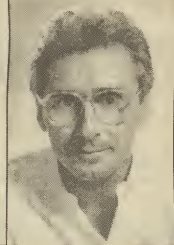
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A Miss and Two Hits

by Mark Freeman

The film *Midnight Dancers* (June 16, Castro, 11:15 p.m.) holds promise that director Mel Chionglo may be the Philippine's next Lino Brocka. The very gay Brocka was a radical modern theater director who entered the world of mainstream (e.g. trashy) film in order to reach the broadest popular audience with his message of social justice and opposition to the Marcos regime. Before his death, Brocka's films screened at Cannes and at festivals in San Francisco, even while he himself was held in Marcos' prison.

Chionglo was sometimes production designer on Brocka's films, and you can see his skill in the colorful look of *Midnight Dancers*. The expository scenes, as young Sonny gets recruited to work with his brothers at a Manila gay bar, hold promise of an expose. But a few minutes into the film, it appears there's little beneath its production values. Yes, the film's softcore sex scenes hold up fairly well. But even the spectacle of sinuous "snake dancing" by young men in briefs or in soapsuds can wear on one.

Continued on page 42



Janne Mortil and Hiromoto Ida in *Tokyo Cowboy*.

'Tokyo Cowboy' The Secret Life of No Ogawa

by Marianne Dresser

The L/G Film Fest's *Tokyo Cowboy* is a charming, quirky take on the well-worn theme of East meets West — in this case, the latter not as the geographical counterpart of Asia, but the *wild* West, that mythical realm of popular imagination.

The *Tokyo cowboy* is No Ogawa, a naive young Japanese man who endures the stultifying boredom of modern urban life by escaping into an inner fantasy world fed by his encyclopedic familiarity with the language, images, gestures, and themes of Hollywood Westerns. His fascination with the Wild West began in adolescent pen-pal exchanges with a Canadian "cow-girl" named Kate Beatty. After failing as a "burger flip," due to chronic mental lapses into the starring role of his inner Western (done as classic black-and-white movie scenes), No decides to visit his friend in the North American West and learn the Way of the Cowboy.

Continued on page 36

'The Naked Look' Under Western Eyes

by Roberto Friedman

Local filmmaker Michael Wallin's "Black Sheep Boy" is the highlight of *The Naked Look*, a San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival program of short works concerned with the voyeuristic gaze. Wallin's 16mm film is a poetic meditation on his driving attraction to young men, the kind of boys the Festival program promotes as "barely legal" but who seem, on closer inspection, to be well into

their twenties, if still flush with the beauty of youth. You may even find, as I did, some familiar faces among them.

Like lyrical segments of Genet's "Chant d'Amour," the scenes of guys undressing in "Black Sheep Boy" are refreshingly unencumbered by a plot. Instead, a man's voice serves as the guiding consciousness of the film as he describes his fetishizing of these youths, admitting that he is after a fantasy, not a reality. He conjures up an

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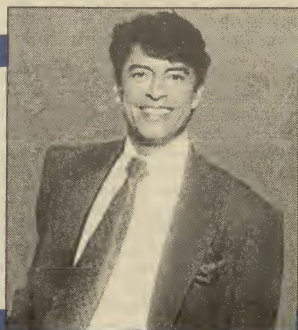


From "Black Sheep Boy" by Michael Wallin.

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at 'Buskers'

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FILM

Film fest's
'Melrose
Place'

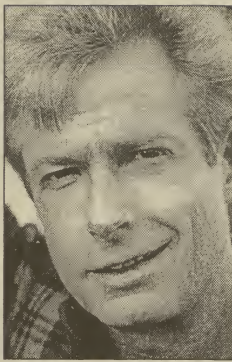
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The Lady Bunny: broom closet days are over.



Jack Wrangler: heavy equipment.

by Daniel Mangin

Coming right at you: We're not sure whether it's part of Frameline's penance for the "censorship flap," but the '70s 3-D porn classic *Heavy Equipment* is a late gay film fest addition. Strand Releasing's Mike Thomas says it's "about a meek bookstore clerk who discovers a magic potion. Whenever he sees a guy he likes, if he snaps a Polaroid of him and rubs the potion over it the guy comes to life and the clerk turns into Jack Wrangler." Scintillating 3-D scenes include one "where a cock, balls, and pubic hair are floating out toward the audience." In true William Castle tradition, the flick's original ad screamed, "First two rows equipped with real seat belts and umbrellas!"

Heavy screens June 17, 10 p.m. at the Castro (glasses provided), right after Nick Katsapetes' sardonic *Get Over It*, about a guy who's dealing (very) badly with the breakup of his relationship. A bunch of his friends come to cheer him up, but their weekend together turns into a hatefest. Out There snuck a semi-exclous peek at Katsapetes' first feature. The comedy, made for a mere \$9000, could turn out to be the festival's "sleeper" hit and might even walk away with the audience favorite award.

He may not have gone "all the way," but it's most unusual for a pro-

fessional athlete to admit even to fantasizing about having sex with another man. In a recent interview, NBA iconoclast Dennis Rodman did just that — to be precise he said he has "visualized" himself with another man — and said that he goes to gay bars. And he's even more obsessed than the most fanatic Madonna queens in the gay community — most we know would draw the line well before having a child with her, another of Rodman's fantasies.

Anyone who wonders why more pro players don't come rushing out of the closet will likely learn the specifics from a soon-to-be published book by Glenn Burke, who died of AIDS May 30. Burke is the only major league baseball player ever to have come out, though only after he left baseball. He said that in the early 1980s Dodgers general manager Al Campanis offered to pay for the honeymoon if Burke would get married. (Campanis later got fired for his wacky theories about the intelligence of African Americans. Burke was at least smart enough not to fall for this nitwit scheme.)

When I read the first gossip about supermodel Rachel Williams' alleged homosexuality ... I was awestruck," writes Robin Elsgrau in the Manhattan-based *The Paper*. "Cool! I thought. 'A lesbian supermodel who looks like the goddess next door? Now that's a progressive fashion statement.'" After pondering it all, she came to a different conclusion. "I thought there might be some deeper semiotic meaning to her being gay," she writes. "But there isn't. A lesbian model would be like a new type Barbie doll on the cultural shelf: accessible, iconic and fully posable."

The gays who won the West finally get their due in *Who Built America*, a new CD-ROM by Bob Stein. *Who Built* acknowledges that "[s]ome men were drawn to the frontier because of their attraction to men" and even includes a photo of two nude cowpokes to illustrate the point. Gives new meaning to the phrase "Ride 'im, Cowboy," doesn't it?

What with nearly 300 gay film festival guests in town or on the way, Mr. Bill (my husband of oh so many years) and I are getting extra sleep this week in anticipation of the party whirl. A lot of the usual suspects will be turning up again — including a few who haven't yet lived down previous visits. Our only regret is that the best guest who hired Mr. America to come to his hotel room and flex his muscle(s) can't make it. For an old codger, he certainly figured in a lot of gossip last year.

Let's hope that filmmaker whose work often gets double-billed with Marlon Riggs' gets a better handle on his affairs this year. Said megatalent got so hot to trot with another filmmaker that he tried stretching the limits of his supposedly "open" relationship. At one Castro screening, Filmmaker No.1 sat between his lover and Filmmaker No. 2, surreptitious-



Maria Maggenti: 'I will not talk.'

ly holding No. 2's hands. Later in the week, desperate for action when the key to their trysting spot didn't work, No. 1 called his lover from their hotel lobby and tried to interest him in a three-way. Now that's nerve!

Speaking of torrid relationships, Mr. Bill and I ended up chauffeuring a debonair Chinese-Canadian filmmaker and his Sub Continental festival find around town last year. Monsieur Debonair will have to find a new love interest in '95 — his sizzling 1994 affair had cooled off by the time their paths crossed again at the Toronto film fest last September.

The Incredibly True Adventure of Two Girls in Love is not director Maria Maggenti's first festival entry. She codirected and appeared in the fiery *Doctors, Liars, and Women*, about the media circus that followed a lesbian-led protest at the offices of *Cosmopolitan* magazine. Maria couldn't make that 1988 screening, but sent her then 88-year-old grandmother to the Roxie in her stead. We don't think grandma got involved in the party scene that year, but who knows?

We called Maria's mother Roberta for a little background on her daughter. "Being Maria's mother was probably the challenge I was born for," Roberta said, laughing. "Everyone realized her genius at an early age. She loved to tell stories." Even in class, it seems, as Sister Elizabeth, her first grade teacher, "at one point did make her write 'I will not talk' one hundred times. I framed it for Maria and gave it to her after she graduated from Smith College. If Maria had listened to Sister Elizabeth I doubt she'd be as brilliant as she is today." (Maria's mom used to be a press agent.)

The Lady Bunny keeps soaring to greater heights with every SF visit. She slumped by the 1987 fest for a screening at Video Free America and moved up to the Roxie for a fest-sponsored Tom Rubnitz tribute a few years later (*The Celluloid Closet* coproducer Michael Lumpkin remembers the dear nervously pulling her act together in the dumpsy supply closet behind the Roxie's screen). The Lady will finally get the grand Castro Theatre entrance she deserves on opening night before the *Wigstock: The Movie* screening.

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Gabriel Mick and Laurence Mason in John Young's *Parallel Sons*.

'Parallel Sons' High (Queer) Romance

by Wendell Ricketts

As soon as I become king, white boys with dreadlocks will be one of the first things to go. But *Parallel Sons*, which receives its West Coast premiere at the international Lesbian & Gay Film Festival on June 14, has made me rethink all that.

Set in a tiny town in upstate New York where northern rednecks give their southern counterparts a run for their money, John Young's romantic tragedy is a cross between *Thelma and Louise* and E.M. Forster's *Maurice*. In other words, it's got "improbable gay love story" written all over it (which is what makes it romantic) and it seduces the viewer into a gullible optimism that one half of your brain immediately realizes is unwise: The way Young sets up conditions for his two young heroes, there's just no way that everything's gonna work out fine.

One of the most engaging aspects of *Parallel Sons* is Young's understated exploration of one of the most remarked upon but least analyzed phenomena in American culture: the fascination—even obsession—of young white kids with "hip-hop" culture. *Parallel Sons*' Seth (Gabriel Mick) locks his long auburn hair, decorates his room with posters of African-American athletes and singers, gets down with gangsta rap, and talks to his little sister like this: "Hey, girl! You livin' large? Word!"

If it weren't that Seth is so vulnerable and so sad, the caricature might be offensive. Instead, because these are obviously desperate attempts to hold on to something that might provide an antidote to the psychic constipation and lifelessness around him, Seth's affectations are both touching and lovable. At the same time, he is all but defenseless when confronted by Marty, a beefy co-worker whose chief ambition in life is to become a guard at the local prison. "All this nigger shit!" Marty rages. "You don't even know one, do you?" Seth has to admit that he doesn't.

Avoids clichés

But all that is about to change. In one of those no-turning-back plot twists worthy of an Anne Tyler novel, Seth finds himself harboring a young black fugitive, Knowledge (Lawrence Mason), who has been wounded in a jail break. Suddenly, Seth not only knows "one," he's forced to confront his entire fantasy about what black culture is (including the realization that there's more than one) and to face facts about the life of this particular African-American man that are almost too real.

The entire middle of the film, then, threatens to take the shape of one of those bridge-across-the-races, "gee, we're really not so different after all" stories that are virtually unwatchable. But *Parallel Sons* doesn't go there.

Instead, thanks to Young's filmmaking and the talents of Mason and Mick, *Parallel Sons* allows Seth and Knowledge to explore one another's lives like two men falling in love and not like two "buddies" who are going to head straight back to their separate neighborhoods when the adventure is over. Their first mutual seduction in fact (in which no skin is bared) has got to go down in film history as one of the sexiest, most emotionally intricate scenes ever played between men.

But you don't have to be psychic to figure out that the people in Seth's town are never going to leave this alone. (Think of it: It's an interracial relationship, they're gay, Knowledge is a convicted felon and an escapee and, indeed, there are other shocks in the plot I won't reveal here).

If *Parallel Sons* falters at all, it's in coping with the sense of inevitability that looms over the film, practically from the start, like a storm cloud. Watching Seth and Knowledge move inexorably (and so slowly) toward a bad end becomes almost too painful.

One is tempted to argue then that *Parallel Sons* falls into the "doomed faggot" school of filmmaking that we have so roundly condemned when it is practiced by Hollywood but which gay and lesbian filmmakers have regularly duplicated. But that is probably missing Young's point. *Parallel Sons*' desperate beauty and superb acting suggest an alternate analysis—that Young believed queer cinema needed not another happy-go-lucky story, but a tragedy as encompassing, harrowing and cautionary as *Romeo & Juliet*.

What's more, *Parallel Sons* is both steeped in and absolutely dedicated to the exposition of High Romance. When Seth and Knowledge decide to make a run for Canada through the Adirondack woods, hoping that crossing a border will mean not just a new life but a new dimension, they spend a night camped out under the stars. It's the first time they make love and, as they set off again in the morning, their naive sense of hope is utterly irresistible. Whose heart doesn't want to believe that with the man you love at your side and a clear day ahead of you, the rest of the world will never touch you again? ▼

Parallel Sons plays the Castro Theatre June 14 at 9 p.m.

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'Tokyo'

Continued from cover

Arriving in the wide open spaces of his dreams, No stumbles into a tangle of familial and small-town politics. Kate has long since outgrown the horse-riding teenager of No's cherished photograph; she has recently returned to her hometown from a stint at art school

and is living with Shelly, a local schoolteacher. No is first taken in by Kate's mother, Mrs. Beatty, who encourages his interest in her estranged daughter. But the troubled Kate pays him scant attention; meanwhile Shelly befriends No and unwittingly becomes the object of his cowboy-meets-cowgirl fantasy.

He also encounters Bill, a postman with romantic designs on Shelly. Bill impresses No

with his claim to Indian lineage, and agrees to act as his cowboy *sensei*, mentoring him through a spontaneously generated "five-step cowboy program." As the characters intersect, working their personal agendas with the hapless No as an unlikely catalyst, a gentle comedy-of-errors — based in several cases of "mistaken" identities — unfolds.

Underpinning the humorous episodes of cross-cultural misunderstandings is a more serious "hidden" issue: Kate's internalized homophobia and her reluctance to "come out" — figuratively and literally. She sequesters herself in the house, refusing to contact or see anyone, terrified that her relationship with Shelly will be discovered. At first, Kate's tension is somewhat inexplicable and confusing; her mother and the other townspeople may be small-minded, but her sense of threat

seems overwrought. For gay people living in rural isolation, though, the subtle terrors of being different in such insular, small-town communities and their potential for ostracism and violence, are palpable.

Inevitably, Kate's fear and loathing takes a toll on the women's relationship, which is portrayed very discreetly, almost obliquely. Surprisingly, this is refreshing rather than annoying. The film isn't focused solely on the "lesbian issue" but layers its themes of identity, resisting the social and cultural conditioning that shapes and constricts self-image into a wry narrative. Everyone in this odd constellation of characters idiosyncratically wrestles with the gap between public and private life, their "inside-house and outside-house" personae. No and Bill both stumble on the true nature of Kate and Shelly's rela-

tionship when the women open their house for a party with a cross-section of townsfolk, including the requisite obnoxious homophobic jerk.

It all shakes out at a Halloween costume party — an apt metaphor for the putting on of alternate identities. In a hilarious bit of genderbending, No and Kate simultaneously mirror and shatter the fantasy vs. reality dichotomy at the heart of the film.

In her first feature film, Kathy Garneau and a strong cast bring prize-winning Canadian writer Caroline Adderson's screenplay to life. *Tokyo Cowboy*, like its amiable protagonist, charms quietly with its sweet and funny ways. ▼

Tokyo Cowboy plays with Lisa Udelson's The Party Favor Monday, June 12 at 6:45 p.m. at the Castro Theatre.

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Hiroamoto Ida and Janne Mortil in *Tokyo Cowboy*.'Fiction and Other Truths: A Film About Jane Rule'
Reeks With Integrity

by Marianne Dresser

Many of us probably know Jane Rule only as the author of the '50s-era novel on which the breakthrough mid-'80s film *Desert Hearts* was based. The "mainstream" success of that film, one of the first to portray lesbian desire with enough authenticity and frankness to elicit pleasurable sighs from gay girl viewers, should have set the stage for a renewed interest in Rule's fiction. Yet the work of this important expatriate American writer remains underappreciated in this country. *Fiction and Other Truths*, a new documentary by Canadian filmmakers Lynne Fernie and Aeryn Weissman, who produced 1993's *Forbidden Love: The Unashamed Stories of Lesbian Lives*, will inspire viewers to take another (or a first) look at Rule's work.

Using the hybrid form employed in *Forbidden Love*, the film breaks up the standard "talking heads" documentary format with narrative sequences based on Rule's fiction and historical footage. Interviews with longtime colleagues, including acclaimed writer Margaret Atwood, offer personal views of Rule's impact on Canadian literature and culture. Ultimately, though, it is Rule's own thoughtful, articulate, and down-to-earth presence that animates this film chronicle of her life and work. She emerges as a woman of tremendous integrity and depth — a lesbian literary godmother of sorts, although Rule eschews any claim to "role model" or "icon" status. In fact, she notes that the only useful role models are "bad ones," because "good ones simply get in the way of your developing into the person you are destined to be."

Rule's life path overlapped social and political shifts that had, and still have, profound implications for lesbians and gays. The paranoid obsessions of the McCarthy era formed the cultural background of her young adulthood, compelling Rule's decision in 1956 to leave the constricted intellectual and social atmosphere of New England for Canada. Her life-partner Helen Sonthoff joined her in the move.

Then 25, Rule taught at the University of British Columbia, and the couple joined and helped shape Vancouver's progressive literary community in the

'60s and '70s. The 1964 publication of *The Desert of the Heart*, Rule's third novel (her first to be published), was both a literary and personal coming-out. The book elicited uneasy mixed critical response: the literary establishment acknowledged Rule's talent, but found the work "too frank." As one reviewer nervously wrote, "its treatment of



Jane Rule

lesbianism makes it seem desirable." Rule went on to write seven more novels and several collections of essays and stories. She notes that from childhood she has moved around a lot, and so a literary preoccupation has been community — how people connect, fit in or disrupt, and create it. Marilyn Schuster of Smith College describes her as "a cartographer of communities" and notes that borders — and crossing them — often emerge as themes in Rule's work. Although she has stopped writing books (a conscious choice: "I've said all that I needed to say in that form"), Rule remains an engaged and passionate intellect. For many years she wrote a column for the Toronto-based gay newspaper, *The Body Politic*, and continues to lend her formidable voice to issues of civil rights and censorship, most recently in the Little Sisters bookstore case.

Throughout the film, Rule gracefully and unpretentiously articulates her thoughts on art, politics, sexuality, gender, society, aging, and death — revealing a life of great intelligence, clear-eyed compassion, and impeccable honesty. *Fiction and Other Truths* is an affectionate portrait of this important lesbian-of-letters, one that reclaims Rule as a vital and uncompromising voice. ▼

Fiction and Other Truths: A Film About Jane Rule plays with Jenni Olson's Jodie Promo Sunday, June 11 (7:15 p.m.) at the Castro Theatre, and Wednesday, June 14 (2 p.m.) at the Castro Theatre.

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L/G FILM FESTIVAL

Doug Witkins' 'No Ordinary Love' Unsatisfying Soap

by John Blanco

In its festival guide, Frameline proudly compares the look of *No Ordinary Love* to that of *Melrose Place*. While visually the movie is slick enough, its real similarity to a nighttime soap lies in its characters, the usual assortment of double-crossing friends and two-timing lovers, and in its story line, which is filled with robbery, bribes, murder and fairly rampant fucking.

Writer/director Doug Witkins puts a brash queer spin on all these familiar elements of the soap genre, and yet this homofied *Melrose Place* never satisfies. Witkins doesn't seem to realize that all soaps, whether they be the creation of Tori's dad or a gay maverick filmmaker, require lively characters whom, if we can't like or relate to, we can at least relish hating. All *No Ordinary Love* gives us is a bland, shallow and money-obsessed bunch of young Los Angelenos, nearly every one of them a cliché: angry rocker-chick Wendy, arch-bitch/hunk Andy, comic fat guy Ben, Asian student Vince and so on.

These characters are linked by their relationship with the dashing, nefarious Tom (Dan Frank), who we see mainly in flashbacks since he topples to his death in the movie's pre-title sequence. Tom, it turns out, was the roommate, lover and manipulator of both Kevin (Smith Forte) and Wendy (Ericka Klein). Kevin is haunted by memories of Tom, who apparently didn't "respect limits" in their dominant-submissive role playing. (In flashback, we see a control ritual they engaged in where Tom snuffs out a cigarette on the palm of the terrified Kevin.) Tom has left Wendy with more than just emotional scars; she's pregnant with his child.

Despite all this emotional tumult, the biggest concern of Kevin and Wendy, as well as fellow roommates Vince (Koing Kuoch) and Andy (Robert Pecora), is losing Tom's share of the rent on their posh, ultra-modern LA Hills home. They think they've found the perfect roommate in Ben (Mark S. Larson), but it's not long before he's gobbling their food, snooping around their rooms and covering up a crime that at least one other roommate has complicity in. Numerous plot twists follow, but they're so predictable (especially the ones involving Tom's death) and the characters such brain-dead LA creeps, that I'd lost interest long before the movie's drawn-out conclusion.

There is one appealing subplot involving Vince and his pining for the sexy cholo/tagger next door, Ramon (Tymme Reitz). While gay crushes on (seemingly) het hunks have become one of the most hackneyed plot devices in queer cinema, this time it's handled sweetly and believably. But it's infuriating that, in the end, we're offered no satisfying resolution to their relationship; the two are merely caught up in the movie's final, and most preposterous, plot twist.



A sample Angeleno from *No Ordinary Love*.

How bad was *No Ordinary Love*? About halfway through, I began hoping one of those famous LA canyon firestorms would sweep over the hideous manse that these roomies love so much and incinerate every one of them. That's a plot twist that I'd bet any viewer would welcome. ▼

No Ordinary Love plays the Castro Tuesday, June 13, at 7 p.m. and Friday, June 16, at 2 p.m.

'Naked Look'

Continued from cover

ideal boyman, full of "sexual vitality, maddeningly self-involved, irresponsible, incapable of really giving." Later he cops to seeking "my younger self."

The beauty of this film goes beyond the visual splendor of youth. Wallin's technique pre-

serves multiple takes of the same subject: this stuttering tempo, combined with bursts of flash and the candid quality of the posing, gives the film a rough, underground look that's very appealing and appropriate to its grunge milieu.

Some footage of the now-defunct High Risk Group, intercut throughout, serves only to distract. The study of movement may be quite apt in describing how men interact physically, but the scenes of High Risk dancing really deserve to be in another film.

Because the soundtrack is independent of the visuals, Wallin is able to make some good sonic jokes, such as a nifty popping sound whenever a guy undoes that first button of his jeans. "Black Sheep Boy" celebrates that uncorking with eroticism, philosophy and poetry.

If only the balance of *The Naked Look* program were so inspired. Ken Anderlini's "Tangled Garden, Act II, Scene II" purports to be an interpretation of erotic male nudes in art history. Live models pose in front of projections of classic paintings. The exercise only proves that art suffers in repro-

duction. (By virtue of a dubbing snafu by Frameline, I also screened Anderlini's "Tangled Garden, Act I, Scene II," which turned out to be an artsy take on the domestic history of the Jersey cow. Certain scenes of milking I found more visually absorbing, and potentially erotic, than the segment chosen for the Festival.)

And José Torrealba's "Limites" is a long visit to the studio of Peruvian photographer Carlos Quiroz, who lovingly shoots film of toothsome French-Canadian male models who have lots to offer, stripped down and oiled up. There sure is a lot of eye candy up on the screen as we are party to these photo sessions, and this may be enough for most of the intended audience. But before too long, Quiroz's voice-over sharing his ideas about pornography and eroticism sags, and the secondary voyeurism of watching him take pictures of naked men doesn't sustain the video's 47-minute length. ▼

The Naked Look plays at the Victoria Theater on Saturday, June 10 at 10:15pm.

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'Queer Orientalia' API 101

by Yuen-Ping Low

While the People's Republic of China continues to officially deny the existence of homosexuality among its over one billion inhabitants, high-profile, award-winning films like *Farewell My Concubine*, *The Wedding Banquet*, *Vive L'amour* and too many insufferable fairy farces from Hong Kong are busily emerging to suggest otherwise.

Clearly, being gay within the cultural context of one of the world's earliest civilizations has its inconveniences. The intrigue surrounding the Asian American queer identity deepens with the unfortunate persistence today of the *M. Butterfly* syndrome – minority myths about feminized men and invisible lesbians that conspire to stir doubt, anger, and self-examination amongst members of the *other other*.

As some sort of a Queer Asian-Pacific Islander (API) Issues 101 primer, the L/G Film Festival's *Queer Orientalia*, a 101-minute collection of shorts (five shot on video, one 16 mm) is long overdue. The idealized mixed-couple scenario in *The Wedding Banquet* may present a pretty-as-a-picture take on the subject, but dissecting down-and-dirty details remains the vocational domain of documentarians and no-budget film and videomakers.

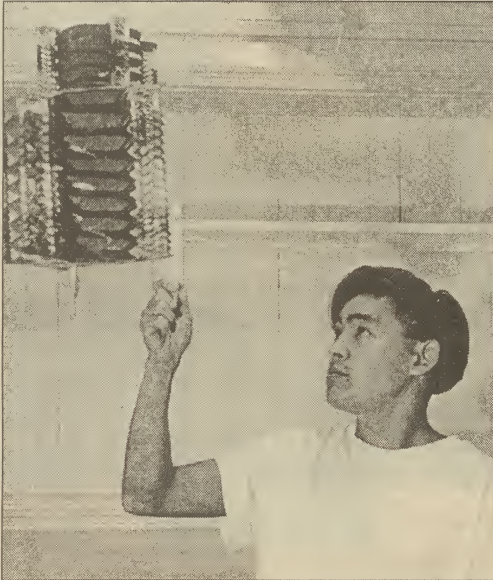
Indeed, "dirty" appears to be the recurring theme here as four out of six entries are united in imagery by a bizarre compulsion for sexual explicitness, albeit to varying degrees of success. The five-minute *Peter Fucking Wayne Fucking Peter* (1994) by Canadian Wayne Yung is a sensuous, rhythmic piece of erotic expression that challenges the clandestine indignity of the widely-held Asian bottom/Caucasian top duality. With guts, verve and poetry, Yung's confessional piece makes provocative connections between bottom pride and gay pride.

In contrast, Terry Chiu's *Bottom* (1994) may outlast the former by a couple of minutes, but in terms of style and substance it's less distinguished. Bugged down by a barrage of tired visual clichés – really, are we still setting lanterns aflame to imply psychological catharsis? – *Bottom* fails to justify its selection in this compilation, especially in light of its striking semblance premise-wise to the superior *Peter Fucking* ...

Sticky rice, fingers, etc.

Sweaty, graphic sex makes perfect sense, though, in the fabulous highlight of the program, *7 Steps To Sticky Heaven* (1995), a celebration of GAM-seeking GAMs. Its giggly candor is palpable throughout its 24 minutes, despite its concentration on sobering issues, concepts that remain alien to old school Asian fags who only some years ago would ridicule API men as being "lesbian" whenever they dated their own kind.

Assembling a bunch of subjects all raring to go, director Nguyen Tan Hoang sets out resolutely to change all of that. Smartly adopting varied camera positions and movements to



"Are we still setting lanterns aflame to imply psychological catharsis?"

capture the exuberant verite of healthy, yet thoughtful, youngsters excited about starting a sticky rice revolution, Hoang is dead serious about having fun in documenting an historic milestone. -in fact, somebody even shouts "Ethnicity's in!" One minor irritation: Hoang ought to have exercised restraint after plugging his umpteenth straight visual pun involving chopsticks, a rice bowl and its sticky contents.

More metaphors get beaten to death by Tran T. Kim-Trang's *aletheia* and *kore* (both 1994); the filmmaker has a disturbing obsession with the human eye, an organ interpreted as the rock of all human behavior in both pieces. The simplistic AIDS-awareness rhetoric of *kore* (17 minutes) is offset by some eye-catching images, including the sole portrayal of lesbian sex in the program. What is less excusable is the flashy montage-filled 16 minute *aletheia*, which defies any logical explanation for its inclusion here. Sure, the eye could be conceived as a location of cultural differentiation and discrimination for East Asians, but hardly gay ones by any means.

The dramatic epic of the lot, *Preservation of the Song* (1995),

boasts 16mm origins and production values that would draw envy from its counterparts. Director Carter Martin makes brilliant use of dissolves and a team of spirited amateur actors to construct a moving Chicago-set study of a racially mixed couple – a white activist and a Filipino nurse – who face a relationship crisis when they realize that their time together is being eroded by political causes and caring for AIDS patients. No sex, just a generous dose of veracity about family, injustice and sacrifice.

Martin's work makes a strong point for future curators of such programming. Why bother with exercises in pretension and semi-interesting queer 'n' Asian discourse of mere novelty value when there is so much heart and soul to let loose on the screen? Equally pertinent is that API sisters out there should not allow their brothers to steal their storm. Start rolling those cameras! What are the cultural assumptions that plague Asian-American women? Rice kings anyone? ▼

Queer Orientalia plays Sunday, June 11 (6:30 p.m.) at the Victoria Theatre.

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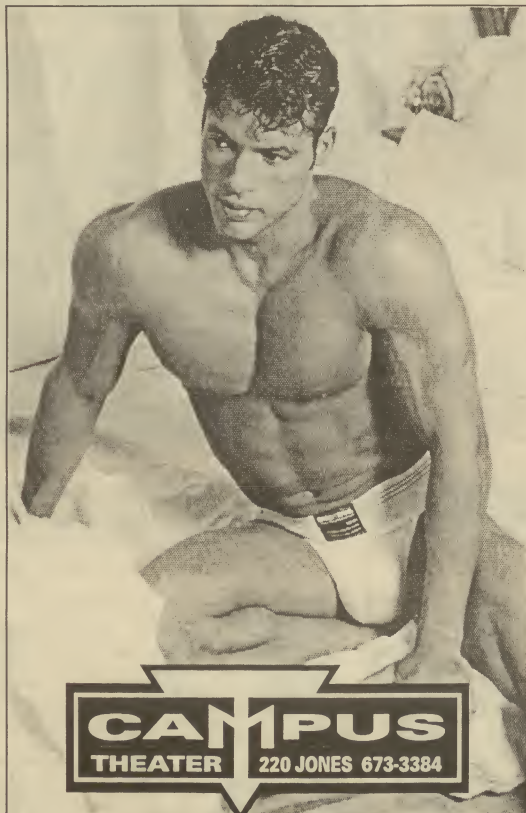
Desi del Valle in *Costa Brava*.

Photo: Carme Turro / Roca

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'Costa Brava' Catalan Romp

by Ken Regis White

Scenic Barcelona and the surrounding Catalan countryside provide the romantic setting for Marta Balletbo-Coll's quirky but charming debut feature, *Costa Brava*.

Barcelona is a cosmopolitan city. It was home to many great artists from the late 19th and early 20th centuries — Picasso, Miro, Gaudi, Dali were Catalan. And the Costa Brava, the Mediterranean shoreline of northern Spain, sports beaches patronized by gay men and women from all over Western Europe. It's easy to see why San Francisco actress and film buff Desi del Valle jumped at the chance to go to Catalonia to co-star.

As *Costa Brava* opens, Anna (Balletbo-Coll), a playwright, is videotaping her play — I mean monologue — on a city rooftop, while Gaudi's unfinished modernist cathedral, La Sagrada Familia, towers in the distance. Anna's hoping to get a gig touring her work around San Francisco and the United States. Meanwhile, she meets the way cute Montserrat Ehrzman-Rosas (del Valle), a nice Sephardic girl born in Tel Aviv but raised in Boston and New York. Montserrat is a scientist — something to do with seismology and bridges. She's also either bisexual or a lesbian but is afraid to commit to a female-female relationship. (At one point Anna tells her, "In life you gotta be brave, you know? You're not doing men, you're not doing women, you'll be doing museums!") They want to be together forever but circumstances may force them to part.

Marta Balletbo-Coll's presence on the screen really makes this movie. She's origi-

nal, if neurotic; and her intelligent, low-key humor is as omnipresent as the pictures of an ex-lover strewn about her apartment. Del Valle, on the other hand, seems so spontaneous and American in her character's preoccupation with her own identity.

What *Costa Brava* also manages to capture beautifully are those awkward moments of being with someone and wanting desperately to communicate something (like "I want to go to bed with you right now") yet not finding the right words. The initial awkwardness between these two women, who like each other but haven't gotten up the nerve to express it yet, is realistic and comical.

But from there they go straight to behaving as a married couple. My only complaint, aside from the flick's predictable plot, is that I didn't get to see much of the passion that typifies new love.

Perhaps the passion simply happens offscreen, like in the scene where the camera looks off into the Mediterranean while the couple enjoy their first kiss. Sometimes the camera behaves quite modestly, visually obscuring private moments by focusing away from the action, or allowing objects into the line of sight, or by peeking at the action for just one second. The effect resembles that of someone shyly recounting personal stories and jumping past the juicy parts.

By the way: *Costa Brava* was made in English, with little bits of Catalan and French, not in Spanish. ▼

Costa Brava plays Saturday, June 10 (7 p.m.) at the Castro Theatre and again Tuesday, June 13 (4 p.m.) at the Castro Theatre.

'Terence Davies Trilogy' Well of Loneliness

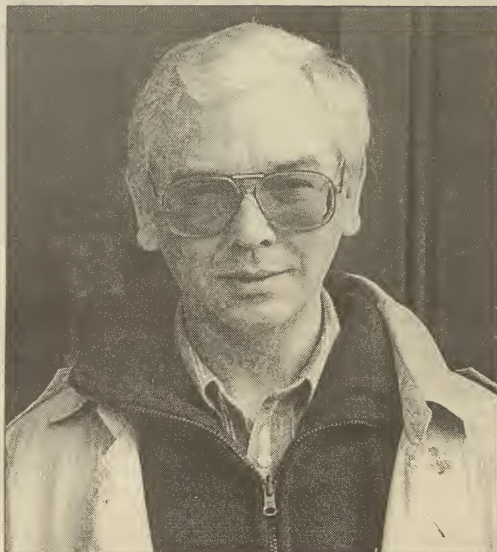
by Robert Julian

A sense of "otherness" permeates *The Terence Davies Trilogy*, a feeling that one is on the outside of life looking in. British filmmaker Terence Davies is no stranger to this theme. It figured noticeably in his acclaimed films *Distant Voices*, *Still Lives* and *The Long Day Closes*. The genesis of these works is reflected in Davies' trilogy of short black and white films made between the years 1976 and 1984.

"Children," the first part of this highly autobiographical trio of films, follows the young Robert Tucker through his days at a boys' school. Tucker is the archetypal sissy. He is tormented by his peers and longs silently for the sexual attention of an upperclassman he watches taking a shower. His alcoholic father beats his mother, and young Robert leads an adolescent life of quiet desperation, like many gay men of any generation.

In the second segment, "Madonna and Child," the adult Tucker becomes an unattractive middle-aged queer who leads a closeted life while caring for an aging mother at home. His isolation leads him to furtive sexual encounters in public restrooms. In one wonderful segment, Tucker is in the confessional, admitting only minor transgressions, when he has a flashback of giving a blow job. And in the final part, "Death and Transfiguration," Tucker, near death after a stroke, lapses into a stream of consciousness reverie about his past life and what awaits on the other side.

It is interesting to trace the evolution of Davies' art through these three films. Each one is more sophisticated than the previous one; the filmmaker's use of music as a thematic counter-



Filmmaker Terence Davies

Photo: Sarah Fitzgerald

point, and his unique photographic style, develop as the trilogy progresses. Davies' signature traits are his slow pans and zooms and his preference for a static camera when framing a subject in lengthy repose.

The films in this trilogy of early works are not as accomplished as Davies' later films, yet each one possesses a crystalline point of view that proves mesmerizing. The overall effect of the films, however, is quite depressing. The ugly, pathetic, and repressed Robert Tucker is a stand-in for the filmmaker himself, and Tucker's dilemma is the one Davies has confronted in his own life. The difficulty some viewers may have with Davies' work is its hopelessness. For those who have experienced this sort of isolation and

desperation and passed through it, there may be liberation in the knowledge that others were similarly afflicted. For those who are still in the middle of a life like Tucker's, this trilogy may be enough to push them off the Golden Gate Bridge.

The power of Davies' work is undeniable, and his cinematic technique is now firmly established, but with this trilogy and two later films now behind him, I hope he can begin to explore other themes. If not, he may become the Sylvia Plath of British cinema—and we all know where that leads. ▼

The Terence Davies Trilogy
plays the Castro Theater,
Wednesday, June 14, 4 p.m.

'Devotion' and 'Change the Frame' The Look of Love

by Paul Bollwinkler

If romantic love were everything it's cracked up to be, movies like *Devotion* and *Change the Frame*, two offerings in this year's Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, would never be made. Both love stories look at what happens to couples—in this case lesbians—when the glow of intimacy gives way to boredom, miscommunication, separation and infidelity.

Devotion, directed and written by Mindy Kaplan, features Jan Derbyshire as Sheila, a lesbian stand-up comic on the verge of mainstream success. When they aren't separated by Sheila's busy touring schedule, Sheila lives happily in Vancouver with her lover of four years, Julie, an artist and gallery owner. Sheila is negotiating for her own TV sitcom when suddenly and unexpectedly her former best friend and almost lover, Lynn, re-enters her life.

Now married but carrying a

lifetime of unexpressed lesbian desire, Lynn wants to rekindle their flame, even though her rejection of Sheila 15 years earlier resulted in attempted suicide and years of therapy for Sheila, traumas that have influenced Sheila's unfortunately not very funny stand-up routines.

Slickly produced (for a low-budget feature), *Devotion* is an involving soap opera that cleverly sets up its conflicts through flashbacks and solid, believable dialogue. Like the best daytime soaps, the structure creates a relentless sense of "what will happen next." Even corny lines like "If you walk out on this conversation it will be the last one we have," or a furious, *Dynasty*-esque "Where the hell have you been?", snapped at fever-pitch intensity, seem right on target.

Kaplan has done a great job establishing a group of lesbian characters—Sheila, Julie and their friends—who, in contrast to the mixed-up Lynn, are happy with themselves and move easi-

ly (and openly) through
Continued on page 43

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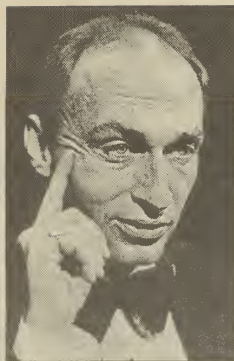
Hit and Miss

Continued from cover

Then there are the three brothers: the married Joel, the street-wild Dennis, and 18-year-old novice Sonny (Lawrence David), with lips to die for. The Cebuano family's poverty is symbolized by their mother (Perla Bautista) and her reluctant acceptance of the much-needed money they earn by stripping in a gay bar and sleeping with *bakla* (male homosexuals). However, all social issues here get dealt with superficially, and unadulterated melodrama quickly bubbles to the soapy surface.

Few if any of the players avoid being stereotypes. Mom is no simple family member, she's The Mother, who laments in grand histrionics, as befits Mary at the foot of the cross. Sonny is such an innocent that he doesn't know he's being asked about doing oral or anal sex when an effeminate potential customer queries, "You sing and dance, *ka ba?*"

The dancers are pure trade.



From Roy Cohn/Jack Smith.

You can tell because they hang out on the streets of downtown Manila and eat butch fast food: *balot*, unhatched chickens. Aren't they worried that their proximity to *bakla* could turn them into gays? "How could it?" one answers. "If you're a man, you're a man." It's fags, on

the other hand, who run the risk of needing "their ass sewed up." You can easily spot the difference too in the characters' shirts: cotton means straight, floral or rayon equals gay.

There are only two halfway-healthy pairings shown. One is between married hetero Joel and his rich but young gay "daddy." The other is a friendship between Joel's wife, who wants to go to Japan as an entertainer, and transgendered Michelle, who helps her to do it. But the changing nature of openly gay relationships between people in the Philippines is barely touched on.

The director needed help with the dialogue and should have received it: scriptwriter Ricardo Lee was responsible for a very moving drama about Dolzura Cortez, the first woman in the Philippines to admit (in 1993's *Dahil Mahal Kita*) that she has AIDS. The editing is clunky, and Romantic music crescendoing for emotion does not help.

Still, the film will have an audience. The explicit relationship, including a scene in bed, between a "straight" dancer and a transsexual was probably a breakthrough, even for "shock me" habitués of Philippine melodrama.

More successful

When it comes to suggesting the deep undercurrents in any relationship — or the solid differences and discovered similarities of interracial ones — *Parallel Sons* by director John G. Young simply shines. Seth (Gabriel Mick) tries to escape the NRA mentality of his hick home town by dread-dyeing his blond hair into locks and being a wannabe bungee boy. Knowledge (Laurence Mason) actually escapes juvenile authorities, and we find him wounded, robbing Seth late one night at the diner. But Knowledge accomplishes a transformation from "bad nigga" to vulnerable victim to object of desire in short order, and very believably. He and Seth are like the mixed Poitier/Tony Curtis couple in *The Defiant Ones*. Do see it. *Parallel Sons* plays the Castro Theatre Wed., June 14 at 9 p.m.

An even less likely pairing are the two historical and hysterical characters created by the late Ron Vawter in Jill Godmillow's film *Roy Cohn/Jack Smith* (Thurs., June 15, Castro, 4:30 p.m.). You may recall Vawter, who played the other lawyer with AIDS in *Philadelphia*, his last film role before his own demise. He was also an experimental theater actor; two of his works are shuffled together here, saved on celluloid for posterity. In one guise he is the horribly evil, highly nasal, closeted Roy Cohn (ex-chief counsel for Joe McCarthy), who is shown here in a speech opposing gay rights before the American Society for the Protection of Family. Interspersed is the monologue of the deeply disturbed and highly stoned glitter queen created by avant-garde filmmaker Jack Smith, bedecked in an Egyptian headdress and bewitched like his beloved B-movie queen, Maria Montez. The editing is ingenious. The look is gorgeous. In short, it is impossible to take your eyes off either of the two gay monsters that Vawter indelibly re-creates. ▼

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Jan Derbyshire and Cindy Girling in Mindy Kaplan's *Devotion*.

'Devotion'

Continued from page 41

Vancouver's gay social world. Sheila is the ring-leader, the charismatic center of their universe, so when she decides that Lynn is too much of a temptation to ignore, the threat to Julie affects them all.

Kaplan's only misstep in the creation of Sheila is a silly attempt to flesh out her character by giving her a day job volunteering at a children's petting zoo. The contrast between stand-up comedy riffs about lesbian cruising and Julie Andrews' breasts and donkey rides and ostrich chasing with the kiddies seems awkward.

Devotion's weakest link is Lynn (Cindy Girling), who, with her tightly piled blond hair and stern, overly made-up face, seems like an evil dyke from a closeted '60s melodrama. She's so broadly arch and serious that Julie should be able to smell her coming a mile away. Still, near the end, when Girling lets down her hair and at long last tearfully, rapturously expresses her pent-up passion, the audience may gasp at the intensity. Sheila certainly does.

Change the Frame, which I saw in rough cut

without a musical score or finished ambient sound, covers the same basic ground of marital discord and infidelity. Rachel, an Argentinean teacher's aide, shares her life in Colorado with Angela, an aimless, bored hot dog vendor. If Rachel isn't busy at school she spends her time having long, stilted conversations about life and love with a bearded, lummo-like male colleague who exists only as a sounding board. When restless Angela, a far more interesting character, grows tired of Rachel's pre-occupations and begins to stray, the lummo offers Rachel a shoulder to cry on.

Primarily a series of static, two-shot (the camera rarely moves at all) conversations between amateur actors, *Change the Frame* lacks any sense of dramatic development or suspense. There's never an urgent or even particularly logical link between scenes, and the romantic outcome, which is never really in doubt, is less a cause for celebration than relief. If love were this monotonous no one would even bother. ▼

Devotion plays the Castro Theatre Friday, June 16 (4 p.m.); *Change the Frame* plays the Castro Theatre on Wednesday, June 14 (6:45 p.m.) and Friday, June 16 (12 p.m.).

Warren Sonbert

1948-1995

Warren Sonbert, experimental filmmaker and former *Bay Area Reporter* film critic, died May 31 in San Francisco of AIDS-related complications. He was 47 years old.

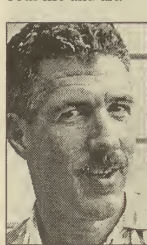
Sonbert was a native of New York City and began making films while attending New York University in the mid-'60s. His work earned immediate recognition from filmmaker Jonas Mekas and critic James Stoller, founder of the *Moviegoer* journal. In addition to making films and writing about them, Sonbert also taught filmmaking at several institutions, including the San Francisco Art Institute, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and Bard College.

Sonbert's films have been shown in film festivals around the world and are in the permanent film collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the American Federation of the Arts, the Anthology Film Archives in New York, Centre Beaubourg in Paris, the British Film Institute, the Royal Film Archives in Brussels and the Hamburg Art School.

The filmmaker described his films as a combination of "documentary, travelogue, home movie and narrative." He didn't use actors or conventional storytelling techniques and typically accompanied his visual assemblages with elaborate soundtracks featuring popular or classical music. The films possess a startling emo-

tional tension: "I want to keep the audience on their toes," he said in a 1990 interview. "I don't want the audience to feel comfortable. Every cut should feel like a wake-up slap."

In a 1990 interview with Daniel Mangin, Sonbert noted that being gay enabled his creativity, allowing him to remain "open" to new possibilities in both life and art.



Warren Sonbert

From 1990 to 1992, Sonbert wrote film criticism for the *Bay Area Reporter*. He is remembered for a characteristically prickly style that was as controversial and adventurous as it was informed and sophisticated.

A memorial will be held in July (date tba) at the San Francisco Zen Center, Green Gulch Farm in Marin County.

The San Francisco Cinematheque will present a tribute to Sonbert on June 22 (7:30 p.m.) that will include screenings of three of his films. The tribute will be at the Media Screening Room, Center for the Arts. Admission is \$6. ▼

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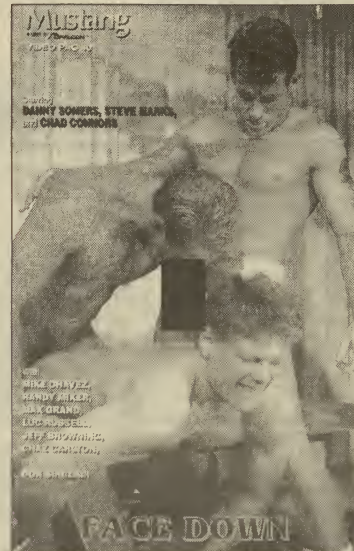
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Tommy Tune: charming artist, wrong show.

'Buskers' Looks Like A Hoary Cliché Busked

by John F. Karr

In case you're wondering what heterosexual men do after making love, the somewhat far-fetched answer is provided in *Buskers*, the Tommy Tune vehicle currently playing a pre-Broadway try-out at the Golden Gate Theatre: They put on their tap shoes and do a number with the boys.

What I wonder about is brought to mind but not answered by *Buskers*: How can a group of professionals get together to create a show and come up with something so stupid?

For though *Buskers* is a boisterous vehicle, it is the wrong one for Mr. Tune, who should feature the feather-light beauty

of his arm extensions in something more romantic. Although the show's amiable score, by Disney studio regulars Richard and Robert Sherman, will make a fun sing-along cast album, the music mostly sounds like discards from *Mary Poppins*; and although the choreography is okay, it is never exceptional and, in the big tap routine, decidedly disappointing.

I could go on with my list of althoughs, but the bottom line is stupid. Boy, whom we really don't know or care for except that he's Tommy Tune, meets girl. Although she's played by the winning Darcie Roberts, girl is and remains an opportunistic, thieving, shallow Eve Harrington type, only without Eve's enticing villainy; boy loses her, gets her back, and then decides, quite rightly, that she's not worth it.

Now, besides — or maybe because of — the fact that I've been a homosexual all of my life, this plot has always bored me to tears. And somehow, in a revival of an old-fashioned show, like *My Gal Sal*, *Crazy for You*, or even Mr. Tune's *My One and Only*, a quaint, old-fashioned plot is part of our enjoyment. But a show created in 1995 just cannot boast *Buskers'* clichés. It also merely brushes up against the real story that lies waiting within it, that of a girl desperate to get a job "inside," on a real stage, because the increasingly unfriendly attitude of cops toward riff-raff and the blackout imposed by the Blitz of London are causing the end of the Busker tradition.

Such a story would allow for all the old-fashioned music hall numbers we want, but in a story with contemporary credibility — well, that ain't this show.

Momentary plusses include the vaudevillian largess of comic Marcia Lewis, and the gaunt good looks of a blond chorus boy, who becomes quite a stud when doubling as a butler, his golden hair slicked back sensuously.

This marks at least the second show in which Mr. Tune can't find the right role to present his gay identity (those arm extensions, Tommy: perhaps for someone in *The Red Shoes*) and the second in which Mr. Tune's clout has been used to promote the career of director/choreographer Jeff Calhoun. If this is Broadway's next big name, bring me another revival of *Dolly*, please. ▼

Buskers continues at The Golden Gate Theatre through June 25. Call 776-1999 for tickets and information.

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Photo: Courtesy of Magic Theatre

Sean San Jose Blackman and John Balma in *Kingfish*.

'Kingfish'

Mysterious Liaisons

by Jerry Metzker

The long and short of Marlane Meyer's *Kingfish* (at the Magic Theatre) is that the play makes a beeline into ideas of perception. Meyer's dramaturgy never settles for easy references or convenient plot movements, and the result is a continually revolving set of circumstances which never lets her audience relax for a moment.

Sometimes *Kingfish* seems to be about nothing at all. However, with its own logic and dramatic ennui, this surrealistic tragicomedy continually twists and spirals with such sharp intelligence that by play's end a strategically wrought story has played itself out.

First, there's the *Kingfish* of the title. For most of the play the characters refer to *Kingfish* as a dog, a Doberman pinscher to be

Continued on page 52

Deep Dyke Dish

Like a dyke version of *Kids in the Hall*, This Side of Butch's *The Garden Variety Lesbian Variety Show* combines satire, videos, drag and the feeling that the three women performers onstage have cloned themselves in order to do the dozens of hilarious characters they perform in one evening.

Amy Boyd, Karla Carmony and Fontana Butterfield — the program notes swear it's her real name — do a series of sketches intermixed with very funny videos. (The troupe's vid "Two Quickies" is part of this year's L/G Film Festival.) From Martina to turkey basters, non-monogamy to Rita Mae Brown, every lesbian icon is hilariously skewered.

While the occasional sketch goes on a little too long — the interpretive dance to kd lang's "Big Boned Girl," complete with audience participation, for example — the show's otherwise rapid pace means there's always something funny on the way. Just watching the wigs come and go is a giggle.

The show's publicity said Newt Gingrich would really, really hate this show. Thankfully, it's true. If your Pride Month needs a shot of cute dykes doing comedy — and



Amy Boyd, Karla Carmony and Fontana Butterfield.

whose doesn't? — *The Garden Variety Lesbian Variety Show* fits the bill. Show runs through June 17 at Theatre Rhinoceros. Call 861-5079 for tickets and information. ▼

—Robin Sweeney

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Parting Glances

Desperately Seeking Shaforeaka

Call me and leave a message. I miss you. ☎ 4104.

The Hottest Guy In Town

Even the hottest guy in town is not worth you risking your health over. Play safe! Protect yourself & those you play with. Always wear a condom when having anal sex, & don't exchange bodily fluids. If you're HIV+, don't panic, get early treatment, talk to someone that can help, & still play safe. ☎ SAFE

Italian In The Park

Michael-You were riding your bike in Golden Gate Park on your day off. I was the tall blonde in a truck. Would like to talk again. ☎ 4001.

No. 6 on Market Street

On 5/9, 3:15. We both cruised each other. You were carrying a case, filled w/ plastic files. You got off near Radio Shack store. Me: 40, blk hr, goatee, brown jacket. Call me. ☎ 4002.

Richard, San Leandro

We met at N-Touch months ago. You called to tell me you had moved, but forgot to get your new phone number. Miss you. ☎ 4003.

5/11/85 Rumors Hayward

You: Sitting between two friends near door at 6:45pm. I came in and sat half way down the bar and had a beer, we exchanged glances and again when I walked behind you to grab a B.A.R. on leaving. Call and leave phone #. ☎ 4004.

Great Butt.

Wayne met at the Rawhide 5/5. Enjoyed the talk & the view. Love to get that butt on the dance floor. Want to brush up? Joe, call me. ☎ 4005.

14th/Landers Friday Evening, 5/12

Both with friends. You: blue stocking cap, Levi Jacket. Me: leather jacket, Brooklyn baseball cap. We both turned around and looked. Now, we should at least talk. ☎ 4033.

Long Hard Flirt On J

We flirted on J Sat 20th. Got off on 16th. You said, "what a nice way to end a long hard day." Leave message and first name. I'll know it's you. ☎ 4101.

Campus Mon 5/15/85

You: Short, cute, "buffed/laid-back." 50. Hamilton. Me: Taller, red Polo shirt, jeans, 52, on way home from LA. Got separated after your smoke break. Want to meet again. ☎ 4103.

Matt B. at Long Drugs, Hillsdale

I always buy at Long Drugs to see if you are working. I finally got to know your name through your name tag. We exchanged smiles and would like to know more about you. ☎ 4102.

24Hr Naut, Sutter Street, Tue 5/22

You: Adorable black man, motorcycle. Me: white, blonde, 6', glasses. We left at the same time at 9:40pm. I wanted to introduce myself but was too shy. I haven't seen you there before, but I hope to see you again. Please call. ☎ 4128

Metro, Tues 5/30, Tony

You were drinking Calistoga, me wearing green shirt across the bar. To shy to meet. Would like to meet, now? ☎ 4222.

Davies 5/18

You: Business suite, brown hair, sitting behind the orchestra. Me: Denim shirt and blue jeans, sitting in left terrace w/ a woman. Wanted to talk during intermission. Please call. ☎ 4200.

Desperately Seeking Cute Guy

With brown hair blue sweater. Your coat fell off bar stool in the Midnite Sun Thur 5/11. Me tall blonde, tan, green cap. Please call. ☎ 4213.

Sun Tanning at Mission Dolores Park

Monday 5/29, 3:00pm. You: brown hair, great body, wine cap, green bike and blue back pack, saw you before in night clubs. Me: black hair, tan skin, w/ goatee, blue shorts sitting behind you. I like you a lot, call. ☎ 4223.

Seeking Relationship M-M

Romantic Latins Please Apply

GWM, 39, 150#, 5'8", average build, hairy, bearded, b/bl looking for a romantic Latin w/ moustache and masculine attitude. NS/ND (light drinker only). Well endowed and uncut a major plus!! ☎ 4006.

Oral Expert Seeks Same

For LTR. I'm a 46yo, Cancer, 6', 175#, br/br, hairy, clean-cut, professional. Any age/race ok. NS, no pets. Uncut, hairy legs, videos, Vacu-Tech a +. ☎ 4008.

GWM Bottom Seeks Top In San Francisco

You: younger than I, GWM or GAM, healthy, HIV+, ok. Like weekend romance, sex, dining and drinking. We: Fun, attitude free, LTR possible. Me: GWM, early 50's, 5'11", 220#. ☎ 4006.

Tall British Gentleman

Seeks Asian or Latin under 35. I'm new to area, HIV-, well built, young looking 50, fit, versatile, varied interests, NS, ND but not stuffy. ☎ 4015.

Big Headed Cock Thick 9 1/2

Beautiful, sexy, honest, sweet, Asian, 25, 4'8", 110#. HIV- seeks HIV-, GWM, 18-35, top/bottom. ☎ 4011.

Buffed GBM For Quality GWM

Masculine, muscled, intelligent, spirited, African-American, exec seeks versatile, mature, confident, witty, good looking, gym-toned, Euro-American hunk for sex, laughs, friendship... maybe more!! ☎ 4012.

Mature, Sexy Man Needs a Love Life

60ish, neg., WASP, 5'10", 175#, smooth body, white hair, oral and JO needs a lover who is also mature to help me get a full erection. ☎ 4013.

Dick Meister

36-50 w/ average cut tool, stable, professional, wanted by GWM, 40's cocksucker, HIV-, smoker, professional for oral devotion in hopes for LTR. ☎ 4014.

Lover Sought

Attr. GWM, 71, 5'8", 160# seeks meaningful friendship & poss LTR w/ serious GDLK, under 40 man seeking same w/ more mature, loving, caring, romantic man ☎ 4018.

Attractive Latino Butch 24

5'7", 175#, HIV+, healthy, college student would like to meet Latins or whites for friendship perhaps more. You: 24-37, sincere, honest, outgoing, and someone who likes to take the initiative in life. ☎ 4017.

Can't Wait Till Summer!

GWM, 31, masculine, muscular, looking for attractive man to enjoy the outdoors with. Love beaches, hiking, biking, 5'7", 170#. ☎ 4018.

Attractive Music Lover

Me: GWM, blk/brn, 5'8", 145#, goatee, cultured, 28yo, diverse interest. You: white, creative, able to enjoy different social scenes, relationship material not casual sex, domesticated yet very social. Vices ok. 21-30. ☎ 4018.

Seeking Generous Dad

Very attractive GAM, 140#, 5'9", is looking for dad to help me through college. I'm intelligent, funny, and sexually adventurous. ☎ 4034.

Spontaneous Fun Together

37, 6', 150#, br/br, clean-cut, buffed, GWM. I enjoy movies & country weekends. We are both affectionate guys, midwest nice, who like to interlace nice bodies. You are beyond attitude. ☎ 4035.

Decent Looking, GWM, 28, HIV-

I'm 6'5", 200#, relatively new to the scene but been around the block a couple of times. I'm interested in starting slow, but the sky's the limit. Looks aren't as important as personality. ☎ 4106.

Masc. Latin Guy

Handsome blk guy, 35, 5'11", 180#, sm body, looking for masc. Latin guy who smiles easily, kisses deeply, has a life, a hairy ass, likes jazz and wants more than a one niter. ☎ 4106.

Seeking Strong GBM

I'm 6', 190#, 34, 1/2 Spanish, 1/2 Native American, very handsome, masculine, muscular, enjoys beach, mountains and take working out serious. You 28-38, strong, handsome, masculine adventurous, enjoys outdoors, take working out serious, ND, HIV-. ☎ 4107.

GWM, 215#, Weightlifter

Interested in Karate and body building seeks bodybuilder +200# for friendship or possible relationship. ☎ 4108.

Looking For Witty, Healthy Top, SF

GAM, GWM younger than I. We like weekend drinking, dining, dates to wherever, sex, and romance LTR wanted by generous, loving bottom, GWM, early 50's, 5'11", 224#. ☎ 4108.

Attn: 408 Area Coders

Deep throater needed. My place. Laid back, black, HIV-, clean, bridge player, 50's, stocky, retired, would love to meet you. LTR possible. ☎ 4110.

Lonesome Senior

WM, retired, soft body, smooth, hairless, will suck your cock, day times are best. HIV-, your place only. ☎ 4111.

GWM Sought By GAM

I'm 24, 5'8", 130#, good looking, sincere, and stable. I would like to meet guys around my age, in-shape, and have a good sense of humor for friendship & maybe more. Must be HIV- & ND. Serious replies only. ☎ 4112.

In Search Of Mr. Right

Me: smart, funny, muscular, HIV-, 5'10", 165#, look 35, w/ thick healthy hair. You: smart, funny, muscular, HIV-, 28-40. ☎ 4126.

BART, Dtn Oakland, 5/15, 4-6pm

You: Green shirt, brown hair, blue(?) eyes, reading Melissa Ethridge article in Rollingstone. Me: muscular black man in a dark suit, reading "Jurassic Park." You were cute, we shared a look(?) ☎ 4127.

Extremely Goodlooking BM

Well built, intelligent 25yo BM seeks very attr WASP. WM, 18-30, in shape, at least 5'10", 160. Not looking for marriage, not looking for one night stand. Just be fun loving. ☎ 4128.

Weekend Houseboy Wanted

Do you enjoy serving a man? Walking around naked? Handsome top (41, white, tall, trim, HIV-) seeks muscular bottom for personal handsome, obedient, serious. NS/ND. ☎ 4130.

LTR W/ X-USMC Guy

Wanted under 35, tight, tattooed and trust worthy, drug-free and employed. By 42yo, blonde hairy HIV-, experienced, educated and laid back Daddy bear type. ☎ 4138.

Cute Asian Submissive Bottom 25-40

GWM, 40, 5'6", 130#, HIV- seeks compatible mate for LTR w/ an established long term SF resident. My interests include travel, classical music, sci-fi, fantasy, friends, quiet evenings at home in my upper Market Apt. N/A/D/S. ☎ 4204.

Dynamic, Committed, Deep Love & Happiness

Sensitive, caring, mature, educated, disabled guy invites spiritual, caring, athletic, adventurous, young, warm guy with a big heart and a high self-esteem to enjoy deep loving committed monogamous relationship. ☎ 4205.

SF GAM Seeking GWM

SF GAM, 5'11", 160#, seeking intelligent, bright, thoughtful, humorous, romantic, mature, ND, NS, HIV-, no facial hair, weight proportional w/ height GWM. ☎ 4206.

Looking For Financially Stable Individual

To cuddle w/ I need someone to cuddle w/ keep me warm and love me forever. ☎ 4207.

Pamper Me!

Lavish me w/ affection, treat me to expensive restaurants, spoil me w/ excursions. This 6', muscular, 42yo stud is ready. Are you? ☎ 4208.

Seeking Musc Black Guy

I'm GWM, musc, 37, wishes to date gdlk smooth musc black guy who is stable, sane. ☎ 4208.

Seeking Huge Nipples

Hot muscular 37, looking for musc guy w/ freaky huge nipples to date. Please be serious, honest. No games! ☎ 4210.

New To SF

Tall goodlooking masculine & very well-built male seeks same. I'm, 42, 6'1", 195#, (HIV-) into body building, motorcycle & jeep trips, and macho lovin' w/ an intelligent together guy! ☎ 4211.

Want South American Under 35

I'm 40's, form USA, attractive, 175#, 5'11", professional, educated, love sex, moving to SF in July. ☎ 4212.

White Bear Cub Seeks Black

Man 20's to 30's, employed, handsome, funny, roughneck ok. No drugs abuse, HIV, barfly, or stuck up attitude. I like walks, talks, KMEI, cooking. I've got it going on!! Potential friends encouraged. ☎ 4214.

Latino Romantic

Looking for companion. I'm 30's, slim, honest, romantic and spiritual & friendly. You 30's, GWM, or Latino, honest, romantic, passionate, spontaneous, and friendly. ☎ 4215.

Orlando Tights Fetish

GWM, professional in Florida has sensual fetish for the feel/look of nylon/flyra. Not into drag. Loves bay area & seeks friends, bicycling, ballet & kitties. ☎ 4216.

I Have A Bear Magazine Look

GWM, 40, hairy, balding with a western moustache, I'm 5'9", 195#, dark brn hair. I'm looking for a guy 20 to 30 w/ attractive boyish looks for a possible relationship. I enjoy bicycling, walks, sci-fi, films, humor, safe versatile sex & cuddling. ☎ 4217.

Dad Needs Bottom Son

My arms hold what the world lacks. Me: attrac. GWM, 45, 6'5", 280#, football players build. You: attrac. GWM, 21-35, slim, smooth-moderate body hair w/ great buns. Sex: Ass-massage, lite spanking. Good kisser a plus. ☎ 4218.

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PERSONALS

Simple Things in Life
GBM looking to share simple things in life. A morning kiss, good night hug, walk along the beach. I'm 35, 6', 195#. **4218.**

Serious Bottom seeks Serious Top
Handsome GWM, HIV+, 6'1", 185#, 29. Tired of games and the bar scene. Looking for serious mate, (top pref) with facial hair, GWM, slender, HIV+, 6'1" or taller, 28-35yo. Friendship, poss relationship, (good heart required only). **4224.**

ISO Romantic Black Top
By handsome 34yo, Irish/Italian, 6'1", 185, fit romantic, eager, for dating and more in the east bay. **4225.**

Italian Bear Dad
46yo, 6', top, professional. Enjoys art, music, movies, restaurants. Looking to share a bottle of wine in front of the fireplace w/ an intelligent, sexy, smooth, trim younger man. Non smoker. **4228.**

Love & Affection For
Older but not old. Hot top w/ great dick wants permanent friend. Any age ok. Be ready, willing, able for sex, fun, travel & all. Good body, 5'9", 150# of muscle. **4227.**

Seeking Adventure M-M

Big Beautiful Black Bully(25-38) Wanted
(4sex/poss LTR) by submissive, tall, cute GWM 33. UB tall, hot, hung, masculine, aggressive, muscular & always horny! I'm 6'3", Danish, sweet, masculine, always hungry. I swallow what you give me & do what you tell me to. Afterward we cuddle. Romance not excluded. **4007.**

Cum-Eating Suck/Fuck Boyslave Wanted
(20-30) by demanding 33yo, 6'4", in shape, hung (8.5) v. cute, w. top. You must very cute, boyish-looking and very submissive/hungry! Race unimportant. Interest in WS, SSM, B&D, all at+ but not req. Limits respected. Swallow it boy! **4021.**

Manly and Friendly
GWM, hairy, 5'9", 190#, strong. 44yo. Skillful builder and p.t. instructor, likes gardens and dogs, well traveled, interested in meeting manly 25-50yo. Uncomplicated professional or blue collar tradesman, strong but not perfect (sound and big ok) for sex and good times or friendship. **4037.**

Italian Daddy Will Molest Asians
You're in restraints with your sweet body exposed. I firmly but gently take what I want and give you what you need. No S/M. **3143.**

Muscle Top Serviced
Oral bottom boy, 30yo, needs a big dick attached to big muscles. Water sports, cockucking and worship. Dominant top will be satisfied! ND. **4020.**

Asian Buns Seeks Asian Sausage
5'11", 178#, 38, HIV- seeks regular sex sessions w/ Asian 25-35 Ht/Wt prop, HIV-. I recently discovered the joy of being mounted and having my buns stuffed w/ sausage. **4022.**

Are You...
A heavy set man who likes his cock and balls worshiped? Gdiking, mas, cocksucker provides kick back servicing (1 time or reg.) Big balls and verbal abuse a plus. **4023.**

Palo Alto GAM
35, 195#, 5'11", blk short hair, brn eyes seeking Italian hairy man for me to go down under. You be under 40 from Foster City to Mt. View. **4024.**

I Want a Man...
Who is a total bottom, may be uncult & have a hot hairy ass for long hot pounding. Body & facial hair at+. I can offer you an in shape body attached to 8 1/2 hot inches, hard and waiting for you. HIV+ ok. **4025.**

Hot Hairy Tight Latino Ass
Looking for top GBM who enjoys fucking hot Latino ass. I am slender, hot, and like big fat dick in my man's hole. **4028.**

Expert W/S Top Seeks Bottoms
39, 6', GWM, 250#, HIV-. You any race/age. Sleazy pigs a+, adventurous a+. **4028.**

Jockstrap Wrestling
Handsome, muscular GWM seeks other built men for erotic wrestling. Let's work up a sweat, stiff cocks pressed hard against each other, as we struggle for top. Go ahead and accept my challenge, you won't be disappointed. **4117.**

Well Hung Asian
Wants cute white men with nice ass. Toys & videos, Fun, fun, fun all night long. **4118.**

At Your Service!
Expert, hassle free, laid back oral service by hot Italian bottom. Available days and evenings. Seeking hot men to service and drain. No reciprocation desired. Straight and Bi men welcome. Castro location. Call for description. **4118.**

Muscular Mature Middle Age
Guy seeks straight acting stud under 30 for all night sex adventures. UB smooth, clean shaven, horny. IB dominant in shape clean shaven and good for all night. HIV+, non smoker, no drugs. **4125.**

Live Outside Of San Francisco?
I want to meet men who lives outside the city to visit. I am seeking new adventures, new environments, new friends. I am 6', 175#, muscular & friendly. Give a call. **4201.**

Understand? Now Respond!
Affectionate top, GWM, 38, 5'6", 130#, small of stature with commanding presence. Seeks GBM bottom willing to explore BD, CB&T and light SM in a part time LTR must be eager to please and in need of attention. **4202.**

GWM, 52yo Lking for GBM
This 52 yr old GWM wants to feel a hot GBM tongue in my hole, I would and love to be slowly fucked as well by GBM. Concord, Walnut Creek Areas only. **4203.**

Here is My Fantasy
I lay naked on my bed you walk in (door unlock) with a hard on. You grease my man's hole and fuck my ass. Age race unimportant. Afro-American men welcome. **4220.**

Santa Rosa Area
GWM, 5'6", 150#, attractive, hairy, br/bl, loves to totally worship your hot bottom from head to toe. Also open to new experiences, I get off by getting you off. All races welcome, uncult a major plus. **4233.**

Black Top
6', 200#, 46yo, into wht or latin pig bottoms 30's to 50's massage aroma tit play moustache at+. Be eager to please. **4234.**

Fetishes

Boyslave Needed
To care for his Man in all ways - sexually, household duties, serve him - please him. Desired commitment to his man - essential. Boy developed and trained in full playroom, bondage, intense passion, SSM, caring & sharing. **4028.**

Live Naked!
I hate clothes! Looking for gdiking and cock-proud dudes into being always naked and hard anywhere. Naked rides at night, all day naked, open house at my place. One-one or group. Strip, show, **4237.**

18-30 only. **4122.**
Lingerie & Dildos
Looking for a BM who likes playing w/ lingerie and/or dildos. I am an HIV+, GWM, 49, trim beard. **4123.**

Obedient Foot Licker
6'1", 180#, good shape, late 40's man enjoys foot worship. **4135.**

Restraints
Is my fantasy yet to be explored. You, dominant with toys, gloves, etc. Me, naked restrained in a vulnerable position for your pleasure. 35yo looking to fulfill this fantasy in S.J. area. **4235.**

Ritualistic Cox Worship
Mainly int intense, heavy mutual dirty talk jerk off. Possible some oral (mostly me receiving) while we are getting fucked up (bare expenses 50/50). Your place, 10-11 pm. Not into videos, shave cocks. Let's put on our own show. Seeking guys very endowed, thickness more important than length. **4238.**

Tight Butt
In Sbay in desperate need of horny fingers, toys, tools, etc. Restrain me helpless and take your eager gloved fingers to a glory hole too tight to imagine. Then use your toys till erupt a load like you've never seen. **4237.**

Other

BI Parties
Young and attractive need only apply. If you have needs summon me. **4032.**

The Hottest Guy in Town
Even the hottest guy in town is not worth you risking your health over. Play safe! Protect yourself & those you play with. Always wear a condom when having anal sex, & don't exchange bodily fluids. If you're HIV+, don't panic, get early treatment, talk to someone that can help, & still play safe. **4036.**

Permissive Grandfather
SF, GWM, 60's, slim build, 5'8", 130#, balding, beard, seeks healthy affectionate grandson who likes to show off, display his JO skills, as well as gain improvement in practicing mutual basic oral techniques. **4038.**

Wedding Bells
Gay female seeks masculine gay Asian or Caucasian male for marriage of convenience, suitable age 30-40. Call for details. **4124.**

HIV+ Immate Needs Letters/Visits
I'm 27, 6'2", 175#, attractive BWMM. I'm from Dallas and I have no friends or family in California. You: HIV+, male or female w/ a heart. I get released in 4 months. You & me 4 ever? **4138.**

Couples

Two Sexy Men Looking For Action W/ Studs
Ready to share great sex with hot 20-40 yo, were 30/35 ft, handsome, pos and neg. Into safe 3 or 4 ways. Arm pits, jo, blow jobs, possible covered butt action. Professional novices us/you.

Bar Talk

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Available Only in the Bay Area on Touch-Tone Telephones. You Must Be at Least 18 Y/O to Call.

Skinhead Wanted
Very attractive GWM, 6'3", 190#, 30, masculine, healthy, in shape with great, thick, dark hair seeks masculine, good looking, fit, GWM, shaved head, very short cut, or bald for fun, friendship, adventure. No S/M. **4027.**

Were Are The Hung Men
Looking for well endowed top men for hot play. You should be under 36, thin to muscular, NS, 8', or more. I'm 34, 5'9", 140#, goatee, smooth swimmers build, 30" waist, 7.5" cut. Let's play. **4038.**

Masculine, Handsome, Mode Hairy Top Seeks Hot Boy!
I'm 37, 6', 215#, stache/goatee, br/hz. UR 18-36, wht/Lat/Asian w/ gr8 ass! Gym bad, GO looks, HIV+, healthy long hair, tan lines a plus, plowable butt a must! LTR or Fuck/Buddy, club boy or Leather toy. **4115.**

On the Lookout For Hot Eurasian Boys!
Handsome masculine top, 37, 6', stocky(not fat!) Sks hot boys 18-36, Keanu, Brandon Lee, Dean Cain drive me wild! RU a gym toned boy w/ fuckable ass, HIV+ and healthy? Do U luv 2B plowed by daddy/coach/bear toy? Fuck buddy or relationship? **4118.**

Alameda Action At Last
Hard, hot and juicy 9" hot rod needs a few manly holes and/or deep throats to pump. Early morning and late evening sessions only. Direct contact (no car phone, machines, pagers) *required. **4131.**

Punches Wanted
Looking for smooth muscular GM who likes having their chest and abs punched (respecting limits.) I'm GWM, 41, 5'9", 175#, muscular and moderately hairy chest. Let's get together for a little rough housing. **4132.**

Blacks, Latino Bottom?
Black guy, 35, 5'10", 205#, well built, average hung, top; looking for a Black, Latino, or Mexican no-bullshit-bottom w/ a round butt for some safe fucking, evenings and weekends. **4133.**

Boy Needs?
26, GWM seeking buddies to roll around w/. I'm 5'10", 160, brn/grn, looking to get together day or nights for? Who knows what can happen. **4134.**

Eyeglass Stems
36yo, GWM, really gets turned on and orally submissive watching man casually sucking on eyeglass stems, pens etc. All ages, types. **4137.**

Preppies/Sweater types
Attractive, 37yo, GLM, seeking dominant young preppie/sweater/repub looking WMs who want to kick back & get total oral service. **4138.**

Pleasure
A.C. Size 11EEE you called but I did not get your phone #. Please call and I hope we get together. **4221.**

Tired of the Same Ole shit?
Do you dig heavy macho intense dirty talk, but are sick of phone sex? Do you dig i/o but meet fuckers/suckers? Like buddy to buddy action but meet top bottoms? Do you dig getting wasted but meet ND? Lets party at your place late pm. **4228.**

Do Me Right
Attractive, 37yo, 5'9", 165#, (hot latin male versatile big uncult cock and hot butt) seeks adventurous fit hot looking studs 20's to 40's for a full services. Big pecs at+, masculine a must. **4228.**

Latin/Hispanic Top Wanted
With big uncult dick. GWM bottom, Ebay, HIV-. Call for info. Want to service your cock in all types of ways. **4230.**

Will Worship Your Muscles
Handsome GAM, muscular 5'10", 172#, early 30's seeks body-builder/very buff for intense muscle worship and fantasies. **4231.**

Double Adventure
In shape WM, 5'11", hung big, needs well built WM, hairy legs and big hairy bubble butt to eat and fuck. **4232.**

stroke, suck and spurt! **4031.**

Your Feet and More
GLM, very handsome, masculine, 28, 5'10", dark skin, looking for good looking, masculine guys w/ sexy feet and sensitive nipples for safe oral fantasies. I work out, you must also. No reciprocation required. **4038.**

Dad Seeks BB Sons
Into humiliation, degradation, kink and fantasy! Me: 45, 6'4", masc, beer belly! You: smooth BB under 35, poss rel. **4030.**

Seeking African Queen
Beely gdiking football players build wants to be dominated by nubian goddess. Hopefully you are dark skinned, uncult, well-hung, effeminate, mature and serious. **4120.**

Feet First
Lifelong excitement looking at & fantasizing about men's bare feet. Very aroused, sexually & sexually by kissing, licking, smelling caressing bare feet in reciprocal action & jo. Gdiking E Bay, GWM, 5'8", 140#, tan, bearded, NA, ND. **4121.**

Spanking Top
Good looking 30yo, 6, 175#. You: Strip down to shorts, stand at attention, then over my knee for good old fashion butt warning.

THIS WEEK

Wanna Submit?

Send calendar listings to:

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Bay Area Reporter
395 9th Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Deadline is the Thursday before issue date.

Friday 9

Beyond Bagdad

An "Alice in Lesbo Land" musical comedy romp. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm thru 6/10. \$12-18. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. **861-5078**.

Cathexis

New work by Alan Disparte and Dylan McConnell, reception tonight. Thru 7/13. Figure 5 Gallery, 3491 19th St. **841-8042**.

A Connecticut Yankee

Rodgers and Hart's '20s musical launches 42nd St. Moon's Hammerstein & Hart Festival. Fri. at 8pm, Sat. at 3&7pm, Sun. at 3pm thru 6/25. \$15. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. **861-8972**.

Dirty Dreams of a Clean Cut Kid

Henry Mach and Paul Katz's award-winning musical returns: four men wait for their HIV results. Wed.-Sun. at 8pm thru 7/2. \$12. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. **861-7833**.

Marga Gomez

SF comic returns to Josie's for solo stand-up. Fri. & Sat. at 10pm. \$12. 3583 16th St. **861-7833**.

Heading South

Brian Thorntson's darkly comic voyage into the gay '90s. Wed.-Sat. thru 6/10 at 7:30pm. \$10. 450 Geary Studio Theater. **873-1172**.



▲ Sunday

This grey kangaroo and many more marsupials are part of the **Australian WalkAbout** exhibit opening at the SF Zoo.

Inspiracy

Lesbian and gay vocal ensemble. \$5. 6:30pm. Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts, 1519 Mission. **554-0402**.

Lesbian & Gay Film Festival

19th SF Internat'l Lesbian & Gay Film Festival opening gala tonight: *The Incredibly True Adventures of Two Girls in Love*, 6:30pm. *Wigstock: The Movie*, 10:30pm. \$10; movies & gala: \$90. Castro Theatre. **778-1888**.

Lines Contemporary Ballet

Three new ballets by choreogra-

pher Alonzo King. Every night except Mon. & Tues. thru 6/18. \$10-27. 7:30pm. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. **978-ARTS**.

Nude Coffee

All-female comedy group from Chicago. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm thru 6/24. \$10. Exit Theater, 156 Eddy St. **(510) 549-0624**.

Pinter Plays

Three one-acts: *Monologue*, *Victoria Station*, *The Collection*. Thurs.-Fri. at 8pm, Sat. at 2&8pm thru 6/10. Bannan Place Theatre, 50 Bannan Place. **868-0428**.

Ravenous

Santa Rosa Gay Pride dance party benefits Sonoma gay, lesbian and AIDS organizations. \$7 advance. Call for location. **1-800-508-3822**.

Redevelopment

Art by Andrea Bowers, Miles

Coolidge, Susan Lutz and others. Fri.-Sun. 12-6pm thru 7/9. Victoria Room, 180 6th St. **255-0384**.

Sandy Dennis at the Maisonettes

Joe Besecker's black comedy. Thurs.-Sun. at 8pm thru 6/11. \$10-12. SOMAR Theatre, 934 Brannan. **828-8715**.

Vessels

The Purple Moon Dance Co. presents a work-in-progress exploring the essence of lesbians and women of color. Fri. & Sat. at 8:30pm thru 6/17. \$10 advance, \$12 door. Footwork, 3221 22nd St. **824-5044**.

Saturday 10

Black Box

New lead vocalist Charvoni sings "Such A Good Feeling," "Everybody Everybody" etc. \$10. Doors open 9:30pm. Club Universe, 177 Townsend. **865-6258**.

East Bay Lavender Seniors

Potluck for gays and lesbians over 55. 1pm. San Leandro Comm. Church, 1395 Bancroft, San Leandro. **(510) 247-2408**.

Family Day Celebration

Lesbian and gay parents, their families and friends gather for lunch and entertainment by Lisa Geduldig, *The Moving Violations*, Tom Ammann. \$10 adult, \$5 first child. 11am-3pm. First Unitarian Church, Franklin & Geary. **569-LOVE**.

In the Street

SF Street Theatre Festival. Project Bandaloop, Wise Fool Puppet Intervention, Keith Hennessey & Friends, many more. Free Sat. & Sun. 12-6pm. Ellis St. betw. Leavenworth & Hyde. **806-5958**.

Kielbasa, Queen of Poland

A drag fairy tale of family roots

and fatty foods, written and performed by Matthew Morin. Sat. thru June. \$5-10. 8pm. The Diesel Cathedral, 3178 17th St. **#2. 562-9008**.

Latino/a Gay, Lesbian, Bi & Trans Artists

LLEGO California presents 5th anniversary performing arts show, including Folklorico Pro-Latino, Teresita La Campesina, many others. Sat. & Sun. at 8pm. \$15. Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts, 2868 Mission. **550-1085**.

One Scary Woman

Zachary Barton's cabaret jam on the theme of feminine wiles. Fri. & Sat. at 10pm thru June. \$10. Sky Room, Eichelberger's, 2742 17th St. **863-4177**.

Open House/ Dance Party

BBQ, Country Western dancing 7-9pm, DJ dance 9pm-1am. Alcohol/ smoke-free. \$3. Billy DeFrank Lesbian & Gay Comm. Center, 175 Stockton Ave., San Jose. **(408) 283-2428**.

Wo/Man & Nature

5th Annual Latina/o Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Visual Arts Exhibition opens, reception 6-8pm. Thru 6/30. Galeria Museo, Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts, 2868 Mission. **821-1155**.

Sunday 11

Australian WalkAbout

New grassy home for gay kangaroos, wallaroos, wallabies, emus and brush turkeys opens. \$7. SF Zoo, 1 Zoo Rd. **763-7080**.

Building Bridges

"Israeli and Palestinian Artists Speak" and "Children's Art for Peace: Arab and Israeli Children Speak." Sun.-Thurs. thru 9/21. \$3. The Jewish Museum, 121 Stuart. **543-8880**.

Freewheelers

Collector car club cruises through the Santa Cruz Mts., followed by cookout. \$15. Call for info. **760-8727**.

Jonathan Katz

Chair of Gay and Lesbian Studies at City College speaks about radical activism to PFLAG, free. 3pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church. **821-8850**.

La Klubstutita

Dragbar & cabaret in new location. Sundays, 10pm-2am, show at 11pm. \$3. La India Bonita, 3089 16th St.

May Day

Paintings by Michael Purcell, thru 6/30. Always Tan & Trim, 552-B Castro. **628-8505**.

Queer Refocusing

14 gay & lesbian SF photographers present a group show. Thru 6/30. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. **861-7833**.

Kim Vaeth, Rafael Campo

Vaeth reads from *Her Yes*, Campo reads from *The Other Man Was Me*. Free, 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. **431-0881**.

Women and Cancer Walk

5K pledge walk, run or roll supporting women fighting for their lives. 12:30pm. Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park. **487-8224**.

◀ Friday

Tomi Passonen dances in Alonzo King's **Lines Contemporary Ballet** at Center for the Arts, Yerba Buena.

Photo: Marty Sohl

Monday 12

Cleveland Raining

Thick Description and the Asian American Theatre Co. present Sung J. Rno's apocalyptic comedy about a Korean American family lost in America. Thurs.-Sun. thru 7/2. \$12-16. 8pm. Asian American Theatre Center, Arguello at Clement. **751-2800**.

Gay Comedy Open Mike

M.C. Marilyn Pittman. Aspiring queer comics sign up by phone. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. **861-7833**.

Gay Pride Art Exhibit

Levi Strauss & Co. Gay Employee Assn. presents paintings and drawings by Cuban artist Juan Alonso, as well as by Bay Area lesbian and gay artists. Thru 6/23. Levi Strauss HQ, 1155 Battery. **544-4022**.

Jim James

Photography from Gay Pride parades, street fairs and Wigstock. Thru June. Mad Magda's Russian Tea Room, 579 Hayes. **884-7854**.

Jason Mecler

Bean and noodle portraiture displays at Just Desserts, 3735 Buchanan, thru 6/27. New work depicting Carol Channing in yam, part of "Art: The Great American Pastime" at George Krevsky Fine Art, 77 Geary.

Town Hall Mtg.

Gay and Lesbian Constituent Committee of State Dept. of Alcohol and Drug Programs gathers info and feedback 6pm. Santa Rosa Doubletree Inn, 3555 Round Bam Blvd., Santa Rosa. **(707) 523-7555**.

Tuesday 13

Interim Portraits and Figures

Photographer Bill Jacobson's portraits address themes of memory and loss during plague-time. Also: "Duane Michals: Questions Without Answers." Tues.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm thru 7/1. Robert Koch Gallery, 49 Geary. **421-0122**.

Lowbrow Art d'Elegance

Paintings by self-proclaimed "show-off cartoonist" Robert Williams. Tues.-Sun. thru 7/2. Walter McBean Gallery, San Francisco Art Institute, 800 Chestnut. **771-7020**.

Male Figure Drawing

Classical nude modeling by bodybuilder Stephen Cleary, hosted by Mark I. Chester. 7pm. 1229 Folsom. **621-6284**.

SF Winds of Freedom

Seated version of the marching SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band, gives a free concert. 8:15pm. Bethany United Methodist Church, 1268 Sanchez. **554-0402**.

Scream Against the Sky

"Japanese Art After 1945" Large survey of Japanese avant-garde art. Thru 8/27, call for times and admission. SFMOMA, 151 3rd St. and Center for the Arts at Yerba Buena Gardens, 701 Mission. 357-4000 and **678-2700**.

Word Play

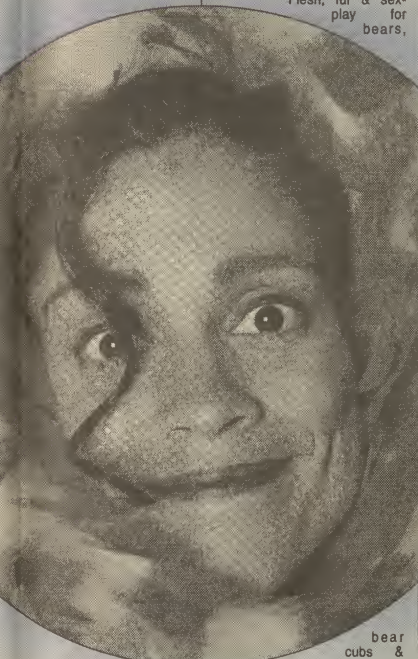
Works in metal, glass and paper by Nick Agid, with *Captions*, works on canvas by Emilie Clark. Tues.-Sat. thru 7/1. Morphos Gallery, 49 Geary. 399-1439.



Friday

Comic **Marga Gomez** in solo stand-up at Josie's.

Photo: Linda Sue Scott



Wednesday 14

After Art

"Rethinking 150 Years of Photography," an exhibition of 200 images. Tues.-Sun., 11am-5pm thru 7/9. \$4. Ansel Adams Center, 250 4th St. **495-7000**.

Buskers

Tommy Tune stars in the pre-Broadway musical about London's street entertainers, plays various times thru 6/25. \$15-52.50. Golden Gate Theatre, Taylor at Market. **776-1888**.

Gay Skate

Rink full of queers on roller-skates. \$5 includes skates rental. 8-10:30pm. Rolladium Roller Rink, 363 North Amphlett, San Mateo. Info: **88-SKATE**.

Cynthia Heimel

Reads from her new essay collection, *If You Leave Me, Can I Come Too?* Free, 7:30pm. A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books, 601 Van Ness. **441-8870**.

An Ideal Husband

Berkeley Rep Theatre's production of Oscar Wilde's play about public life. Tues.-Sun. at various times thru 7/16. \$28-32.50. 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. **(510) 845-4700**.

Kingfish

Marlane Meyer's comedy in which an aging photographer adopts a young hustler, to the dismay of his dog. Wed.-Sat. at 8:30pm, Sun. at 2 or 7:30pm thru 6/25. \$17-23. Magic Theatre, Bldg. D, Fort Mason. **441-8822**.

Men

Artwork by David Maxim uses male imagery. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm thru 6/26. Space 743, 743 Harrison. **777-9080**.

Rocket to the Moon

Aurora Theatre Co. presents Clifford Odets' play directed by Joy Carlin. Wed.-Sun. thru 6/25. \$16-18. 8pm. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. **(510) 843-4822**.

Thursday 15

Alter Altar

Alternative queer show of ritual objects and installation. Opens tonight, 7:30pm. Thurs.-Sat. thru 7/15. Collision, 417 14th St. **431-4074**.

Bear Naked

Flesh, fur & sex for bears,

tips and techniques to release the sexual show-off within, free. 8pm. Good Vibrations, 1210 Valencia. **874-8885**.

Foot Sex Party

Foot Friends, a club for gay men into feet and foot-related scenes. \$10. 7pm-2am. The Black House, 633 Castro.

Forever Jung

John Maxwell Taylor's one-man drama explores the life of psychologist Carl Gustav Jung. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm thru 6/25. \$11-15. Bayfront Theater, Bldg. B, Fort Mason. **382-4400**.

Garden Variety Lesbian Variety Show

Amy Boyd, Karla Carmony, Fontana Butterfly: sketches, videos, tunes, wigs. Thru 6/17. Studio at Theatre Rhino, 2926 16th St. **861-5078**.

A Girl's Guide to Chaos

Cynthia Heimel explores the dating and mating game of urban girls. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 3pm thru 6/25. \$13-15. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. **861-8872**.

Going to the Wall

"For HIV+ Women," celebration of mural by Juana Alicia and students. Performance by Positive Spirit, speakout, live music, food. 4-7pm. Scott betw. Haight & Waller. **621-4188**.

The Lion in Winter

Network Theatre Co. presents this clash of wits between King Henry II and his wife, Eleanor of Aquitaine. Thurs.-Sun. at 8pm thru 6/18. \$20-25. Alcazar Theatre, 650 Geary. **(510) 562-4647**.

Paradise Divided, Boys' Play

Two one-acts, by Tom Kelly and Jack Heifner, for Gay Pride Month. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 6/24. \$10-13. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. **861-8872**.

Pre-Parade Party

Veronica Klaus, Spanking Violets, Angel Corpus Christi, Bambi Lake. \$5. Doors open 9pm. Paradise Lounge, 308 11th St. **621-1811**.

Queer Spirits

"A Gay Men's Myth Book" editor Will Roscoe reads from the collection, free. 7:30pm. Black Oak Books, 1491 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. **(510) 488-0888**.

Rush Limbaugh in Night School

Charlie Varon's comic solo performance returns. Thurs.-Sat. at 8:30pm, Sun. at 7:30pm thru 6/25. \$10-15. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. **641-0235**.

Daniel Vilmure

Reads from new novel *Toby's Lie*. Free, 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. **431-0881**.

Way Out West

Artful Circle Theatre remounts its original comedy musical with Ann Drogynous as Mae West, Mark Sargent as W.C. Fields, opens tonight. Thurs. at 8pm, Fri. & Sat. at 8:10pm thru 7/22. \$15. The 450 Geary Theatre. **621-5455**.

Women With Balls

Showcase for women stand-up comics, every Thurs. 8pm. Cat's Grill and Alley Club, 1190 Folsom. **431-3332**.

Friday

Cast of *Dirty Dreams* of a *Clean-Cut Kid* at Josie's.

Photo: Dana Peter Porras



This Week's Dinner Specials



Chicken Stroganoff with marsala wine & mushrooms served over fettucini.....**8.75**

Pepper Steak—grilled NY steak with cracked black pepper & brandy, served with linguini pesto.....**12.95**

Penne Pasta with Chicken & Rock Shrimp, light tomato-basil alfredo sauce.....**9.75**

Fresh Salmon poached in white wine with lemon & capers, served with rice or potatoes.....**9.75**

Prime Rib au jus**12.50**

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Dinner served from 5:00 PM

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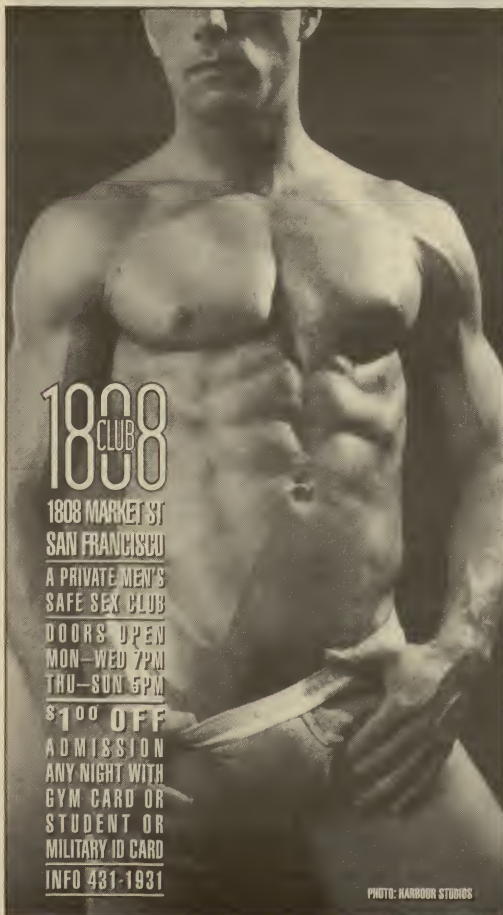
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BAY AREA REPORTER BAZAAR

MR. MARCUS

Tribal Rites in Dallas

Six days after the astounding 17th Annual International Mr. Leather contest in Chicago, the quest for International Mr. Drummer 1995 got under way in Dallas, Texas last weekend (June 2-4) as Johnny Grey, proprietor of Shades of Grey Leather, unleashed the Cirque de Cuir-themed Mr. Gulf Coast Drummer Contest, followed by the Danse de Cuir in a wallpaper manufacturing warehouse in a location reminiscent of South of Market. With the magnificent skyline of Dallas etched in the night sky, four contestants vied for the title vacated by last year's winner, Paul Jacques, of Oklahoma City.

Trouble is, due to a breakdown in communication, Jacques did not appear to sash his successor. In fact, according to numerous individuals, Paul Jacques failed to show up for many scheduled events during his title year. But not to worry! Texas sponsors of Gulf Coast Drummer went "on with the show" — and what a show it was! With temperatures soaring beyond 90 degrees, a new Mr. Gulf Coast Drummer was chosen. The contestant from Oklahoma didn't show up either, so it looks like Oklahoma's sweep of major leather titles this year will not be realized after all. Oklahoma is in the Gulf Coast Region; their contestant was a no show, scuttling the Oklahoma sweep that had been predicted for two weeks.

There was a meet and greet of contestants and judges on Friday at the sparkling new Dallas Eagle, The Brick, and Headquarters Bars. The enthusiasm was encouraging. Judges Don Gill of Houston, Caroline Reed of the Dallas Flying W Motorcycle Club (strictly bikes), IM Drummer Keith Hunt, Viola Johnson of Bixby, Okla. and Intl. Mr. NLA Don Bastian of Calgary, Ont., Canada had their work cut out for them. I was honored to serve as the chief judge. Since Mr. Jacques didn't show, Chris Rebonza, Mr. Gulf Coast Drummer of yesteryear, stepped in to save the day.

In his 7th year of sponsorship (and the longest regional Drummer sponsor), Johnny Grey amassed an enormously talented group of volunteers that included dancers, a flag corps, set decorators, and a sound system that defied superiority in any other production. With the no-nonsense (and very hunky) David Harmon winning the Audrey Joseph Produce-Alike Contest, the show went on without a hitch.

There were two contestants from Dallas (Tommie Dodd and J.D. Buchert), one from San Antonio (Ray West), and one from Houston (John Benavides, also Mr. Texas Drummer).

The prejudging interviews, fantasies, speeches and leather images were scored by the judges, and when it was time to name the winner, the place erupted in jubilation as Houston's John Benavides received the plaque and sash proclaiming him the first of 11 Regional Mr. Drummers who will compete here in San Francisco on Saturday, Sept. 23. Actually, John is from Sugarland, Texas a town in the general Houston metropolitan area.

Texas hospitality was a 72-hour long red carpet treatment for visitors to Big D. The new Dallas Eagle is definitely the hottest place in town. Mark



Photo: Mr. Marcus

John Benavides (of Sugarland, Texas, near Houston), Mr. Texas Drummer, prevailed over three other Texans to win the Mr. Gulf Coast Drummer title last Saturday in Dallas.

Frazier and his partner have a winner on their hands and an extremely amiable staff, great drinks, and lots of wonderful, sultry attitude. On your next trip to Dallas, the Dallas Eagle is a "must"!

I returned to SFO (and its refreshing 68 degree temperature) just in time to get to the Eagle for the last dying embers of Rodeo weekend jubilee. The tireless Don Thompson and his elves were raising tons of money for Rita Rockett's Sunday brunches at SFGH and cowboys galore were on hand to end the rodeo weekend. Sorry to hear Mr. SF Leather Wolf Mirasol injured his leg while riding bulls at the rodeo. He's hoping for a speedy recovery.

Next weekend, the second regional Drummer contest gets under way (already!) in Omaha, NE as Dustin Logan gathers contestants from the biggest Drummer Region for the newly-named West Plains Drummer at The Max in Omaha. If you're in the vicinity come and sample some great Midwest hospitality. The host hotel is the Radisson-Redick.



Photo: Mr. Marcus

Mr. Gulf Coast Drummer contestants at the contest in Dallas last Saturday, June 3 (L to R.): Tommie Dodd, Ray West (runner-up) of San Antonio, John Benavides of Houston, and J.D. Buchert of Dallas.

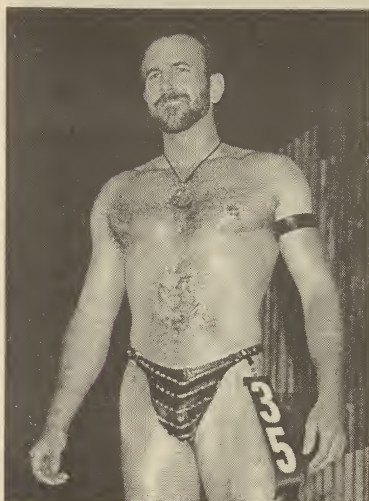


Photo: Mr. Marcus

International Mr. Leather '95, Larry Everett, in the jock portion of the judging at IML in Chicago on Sunday, May 28.

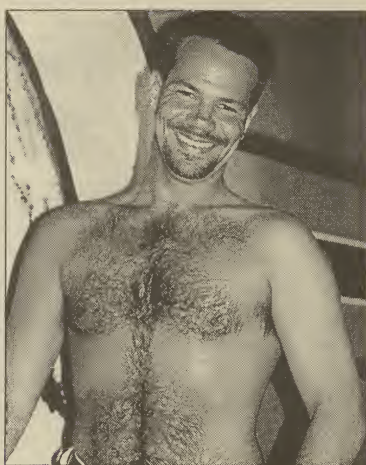


Photo: Mr. Marcus

Mike Greenberg won the November '96 spot on the Bare Chest Calendar for next year on Thursday, June 1 at the Eagle. The final spot, Mr. December, will be chosen on Thursday, June 15. All 12 will compete for the cover spot on Thursday, June 29.

The Mr. West Plains Drummer contest is on Saturday night at The Max in Omaha.

IML Part II

To say that everyone who showed up for IML in Chicago two weekends ago was saintly would be the biggest lie in the world. The three-story lobby of the hotel, which included two fabulous up/down escalators, afforded drinkers and diners alike the spectacle of seeing every Tom, Harry and Dick going to the upper level and/or the lower levels. This place should be renamed Cruise Mart. The vendors were raking money in hand over fist as the leather-inclined from cities throughout the Midwest plunked down charge cards, travelers checks and hard cash for leather and fetish gear.

Richard of Mister S was glowing all weekend and not just because of his latest "boy" either; Irwin Kane of Gauntlet Piercing laughed all the way to the bank and cash registers were ringing loud and clear all over the place. Every imaginable T-shirt, leather garment, accouterment and accessory was available. The smart ones waited until the last day when prices were slashed by as much as 75 percent by vendors who didn't want to haul their gear back home.

Naturally, the Germans and Australians held center stage throughout the weekend; Jeff Tucker's other half, Steve, threw a bash for all the contestants' other halves, who were on hand waiting - wearily - to find out if their contestant lovers were to be finalists or not in his Sash Rash widow event. Across Michigan Ave., bears from around the world were headquartered at the Executive House while awaiting their fuzzy fracas between the leather dudes, the square dance group and the bears. Gee, Chicago must have had the biggest gay population on the planet that weekend. I guess straight people just resigned themselves to the fact that queerdom was in charge and settled in comfortably with their shy questions about gay life.

IML '95 in Chicago was another smashing success; the Aussies, Germans and Dutchmen were

seen cavorting in San Francisco all last week, and all around town it was another reunion of hot and hunky men. You really have to experience IML to believe how great it is.

While I was in Dallas, I'd like to thank the schmuck who left those endearing messages on my answering machine. You - *and I know who you are* - definitely need help, queen!

Sunday's beerbust at the Eagle was jammed with cowboy types trying to squeeze the last bit of hedonism out of Rodeo '95 weekend. I can report, too, that the natives didn't disappoint!

Last Thursday, four more bare-chested men stalked the stage in an attempt to land the November spot on the Eagle's '96 Bare Chest calendar. Judges Lee Tucker, Cornelius Conboy of Eichelberger's and Ray Hopkins, proprietor of Radical Leathers in Sydney, Australia put contestants through the paces. When the scores were tallied, Mike Greenberg took the November 1996 spot with Carlos Molina the runner-up. The final spot, Mr. December 1995, will be chosen next Thursday, June 15, and on June 29, all 12 winners will compete for the cover spot on the calendar. Don't miss the thrilling climax of the 1996 calendar competition!

The main leathery event coming to Our Town this weekend is the film showing at the Castro at 1700 on Sunday, June 11th. Jochen Hick's *Menmaniacs*. It's screening as part of this year's Lesbian & Gay Film Festival. You can order a seat at most ticket venues; it's item ELGF611C if you order by phone from ticket agents. This is a great little flick that will show you leatherdom on a global scale; it runs the gamut from the grassroots level to both IML and Intl. Mr. Drummer. Hick's camera captures personalities and scenes, interviews with major players in the sash rash game, and other tantalizing tidbits that go into the major leather titles. The film has been critically acclaimed by film critics around the world, so don't miss it. That's Sunday, 1700 at the Castro Theatre, following the Leather Pride Float benefit beerbust at the Eagle! ▼



A scene from *Menmaniacs*, the esteemed leather/SM documentary by Jochen Hick of Hamburg, which screens at the Castro Theatre this Sunday, June 11 at 1700.



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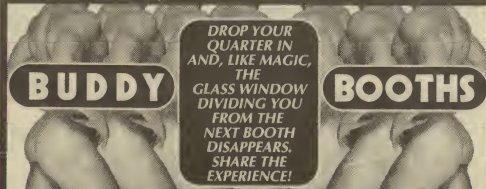
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Eventures in Leather

Unless otherwise noted, all phone numbers listed below are in the (415) area code.

Thursday, June 8

The Stud's BBS guys reveal the winners of their Mr. Cut & Mr. Uncut voting at Club Eros tonight from 1930 to 2200. Meet the victors! Call 495-1811.

Weekend, June 9-11

The second regional Mr. Drummer contest takes place to choose Mr. West Plains Drummer at The Max in Omaha. Meet and greet judges and contestants on Friday night; the contest is on Saturday night; and a victory brunch on Sunday.

All the major leather title holders in the SF Bay Area travel to Reno to be auctioned off for dinner dates by Mr. Silver State Leather Lee Zirkle at Club 1099, 1099 South Virginia Avenue. There's a barbecue at 1500, and the dinner auction begins at 1700.

Saturday, June 10

Ms. Alameda Co. Leather Radhika hosts Rub-a-Dub-Dub fishing derby at Lake Chabot in Castro Valley this afternoon for the In Memory Fund over there. Prizes and trophies and a lot of fun. Call (510) 537-5428.

Sunday, June 11

Leather Pride Float benefit beer bust at the Eagle from 1500 to 1800 for \$8. Spots to ride on the float will be auctioned off, and yes, they need

volunteers. Beer and food. Don't miss it!

At 1700, *Menmaniacs*, the leather documentary by Jochen Hick, shows at the Castro Theatre. You'll love it. Leather titles from the grass-roots to the final sashing by winners at IML and Mr. Drummer. Only \$7. Starring yours truly.

Tuesday, June 13

Golden Gate Guards MC beer bust at the Eagle for \$6 from 2000 to 2300 tonight. Break the early week doldrums with this event.

Full Moon Party at The Edge from 8 p.m. to who knows? Watch the crazies cavort with a beer bust and fun galore! Say hi to Eric Weinman for me.

Wednesday, June 14

Golden Showers galore at 933 Harrison tonight. You know the hours and the rules; just get down there and get wet!

Thursday, June 15

Last spot, Mr. December 1996, on the Bare Chest Calendar goes up for grabs tonight at 2200. Win \$100, glory, fame, plus help the AIDS Emergency Fund to help ailing brothers and sisters. Gild your areolas!

Intl. Ms. Leather Cindy Bookout travels here for our gay parade and will be receiving admirers at The Renegade in San Jose at a benefit for the IMSL Fund. Hey, there's more! Watch this column for the "complete" leather calendar events in spite of what D.T. claims! ▼

'Kingfish'

Continued from page 45

exact. Kingfish, we are told, is a trained killer. The script doesn't call for a real killer Doberman onstage. Instead, they use a black box with foot stool legs and a piece of rope for a tail. But, sometimes, to the characters, Kingfish is not a dog; it's only a box with a piece of rope for a tail. And there's the rub. Is it real or isn't it?

The plot concerns Wylie (Robert Ernst), a wealthy older gay man who's recently been mugged. Seeking companionship, he invites Hal (Sean San Jose Blackman), a young gay hustler (who may or may not have been his mugger) to live with him. Before long, the duo has seduced Hal's sophisticated friend, Finney (John Balma), into living with them as well. What follows is a manipulative game of proving just who is the king fish of the household.

In one sense the play tracks the formation and disintegration of a family. In another, it's about

thoroughly exacted revenge. In yet another, it presents the gradual self-destruction of an already marginalized person. What *Kingfish* doesn't present is a story that is easy to follow.

Oddly, playwright Meyer's scenario is convoluted yet complete. It tells a story in a linear fashion but without linear logic: one scene follows another in time but not necessarily with any rational sense.

Under Jonathan Moscone's direction, the highly talented cast perform ably, and it's not difficult to imagine what a wreck this play would be without it. As it is, though, there are times when the actors appear to be as clueless about what's going on as the audience.

Kingfish is indirect, frustrating, but sometimes fascinating. It's the kind of play that requires a few long conversations afterward, and even then it might still be disappointing for those seeking an entertaining distraction. ▼

Kingfish continues at the Magic Theatre through June 25.

Out There

Continued from page 34

But don't stop there, your Bunnyship. Take a cue from Pratibha Parmar. Two years ago she was on the Castro stage receiving the Frameline Award, but she's bigger than all that now. She'll be stopping by the festival (her fine *Mensahib Rita* is part of a shorts trio) but will make a far bigger splash as one of the gay parade's Grand Marshals.

roducer Marcus Hu, just back from Cannes, gets the Frameline Award this year — though if the world premiere of *Frisk* proves too provocative (or not the advertised "gay *Citizen Kane*") overly sensitive audience members may demand that he give it back! Don't laugh. This is the first year closing night at the Castro takes place on Parade Day. Could be a surly crowd that takes in *Frisk* — sun-burned, a little tipsy, maybe even having partaken of too many treats from *Brownie Mary* (as did that bleary-eyed British producer who's return-

ing again this year). Should be a lively evening in any case.

A Frameline operative tried to convince us that experimental filmmaker **Jim Hubbard** is coming to town with the first widescreen gay film ever — as though we'd never seen *Ben Hur*, *Spartacus* or *Lawrence of Arabia*! Hubbard's *Memento Mori*, whose images he hand-processed, is, however, a well-crafted meditation on death.

O ne of the quirkiest beauties in this year's gay film festival, who, alas, won't be a guest, is the très fey **Matthew Ferguson**, who has roles in two quirky Canadian features. He endeavors to lure **Thomas Gibson** into deflowering him in *Love and Human Remains* (Gibson stars as a disillusioned former child star now working as a Toronto waiter). In *Eclipse* (a solar eclipse intensifies the libidos of ten Canadians — gay, straight and bisexual), Ferguson turns some older men into emotional wrecks, teasing and torturing them with his nubile flesh.

M idi Onodera will make her third fest visit, this time with *Skin Deep*, a feature about a woman making a film about tattooing. Onodera caused a stir in 1986 with the three-part *Ten Cents a Dance*, which started a mini-riot at the Roxie after some lesbians thought they espied a penis. The revolt led to a reevaluation of the fest's booking policies. Some may find problematic the transgendered character in *Skin Deep* who becomes obsessed with the filmmaker, but Onodera has already proven she can take audience heat.

I t probably won't get much notice, but one of the kookier works in the "Girls by the Bay" program of locally produced work is **Pamela August Russell's** *Death of a Writer in Two Parts*. The first part takes place in reverse, starting at the end and peeling itself backward. Clever. Russell's girlfriend, we're told, is the multititled **Phyllis Christopher**. (Many folks think Christopher is still with **Karen Everett**, what with the **Harvey Milk Institute** using and reusing that cuddly photo of them.) ▼



Michelangelo Signorile

Photo: Rick Gerharter

The 'Coming Out' Manual

Outing Yourself by Michelangelo Signorile; Random House, \$20

Michelangelo Signorile garnered fame by forcing the unwilling to come out. Now, in his latest book, *Outing Yourself: How to Come Out to Your Family, Friends, and Coworkers*, he offers countless tips on coming out for those willing, but fearful or hesitant.

In *Outing Yourself*, Signorile's unentertaining, earnest writing is not psychologically complex enough for more mature closet cases, but is perfectly pitched at teenagers and twentysomethings. They'll find it the best of all possible coming out

manuals, if only because it exists, is so level-headed, and is packed with information which could benefit even those long out of the closet. Its chapters cover the gamut from coming out to oneself, other gays, straight friends, family, coworkers, to, finally, not thinking about it at all. Glinda the Good's "Come out, come out, wherever you are" may have been more succinct, but holds back on the details. Not so Signorile. ▼

Editor's Note: Michelangelo Signorile will give a reading on June 16 (7:30 p.m.) at A Different Light Bookstore on Castro Street.

—John F. Karr

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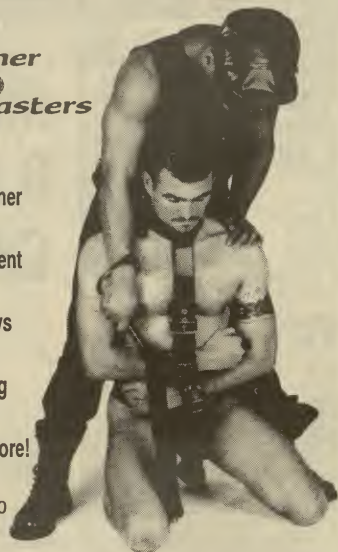
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Entries From A Hot Pink Notebook by Todd D. Brown; Washington Square Press, \$10

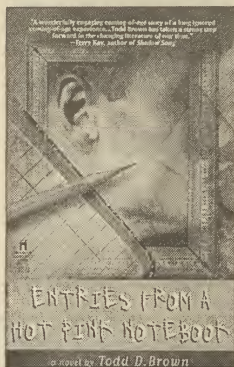
by Jeffery Kennedy

Todd D. Brown's fiction debut *Entries From a Hot Pink Notebook* is perhaps the first book of its kind: an optimistic gay coming-of-age novel accessible to teen readers. In my opinion, there are two good gay coming-of-age novels: Matthew Stadler's *Landscape: Memory* and John Fox's *The Boys On the Rock*. Both, however, end with the death of a gay character, and Stadler wrote his book for adults. Brown's book isn't as well-crafted as these two, but it says more about being a gay kid than either of them.

Ben Smith is a 14-year-old growing up in rural Maine. A hot pink notebook is his diary. Ben describes his family as such: "I've got a drunk for a father, a basket case for a mother, a dimwit for a brother, and a religious fanatic for a grandmother. We live in an apartment above a gas station."

Every day brings new challenges. Ben is gay. His best girlfriend puts the make on him. The rich kids in his accelerated learning program don't want to share their cafeteria table with him. Ben's mother and father break up and make up. He develops a crush on a male teacher, then has a romance with a male classmate. He wonders if he'll ever get out of his small town. By facing these challenges, Ben beats a path through his adolescent jungle toward a strong sense of self.

Ben also grapples with sever-



al contemporary social ills, including alcoholism, physical abuse and religious fundamentalism. Crowded together, these issues bump into each other but never really go anywhere. Ben's alcoholic father, for example, comes across as a case study rather than a human being. *Notebook*, in general, suffers from characterization problems.

Nonetheless, *Notebook* is compelling. Brown effectively conveys the emotional processes gay kids go through: falling in love, losing your virginity, being ridiculed, having your heart broken, coming out, making gay friends, forgiving stupid people of their prejudices. As Ben gradually ages and works through these processes, he asks himself many questions, which, in turn, lead to tiny epiphanies. Ben learns, and he grows up. You grow up right along with him. When Ben reaches the end of his notebook, a bit older and much wiser, he excitedly looks forward to his future. So do you. ▼

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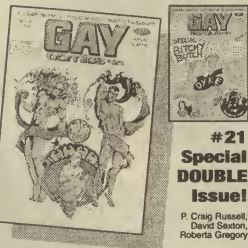
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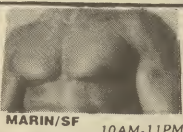
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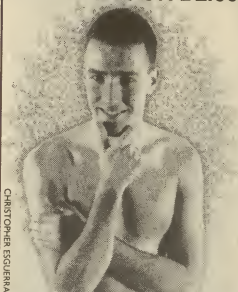
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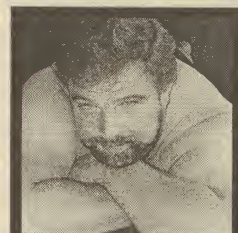
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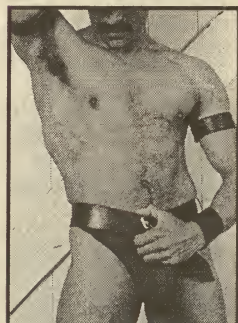
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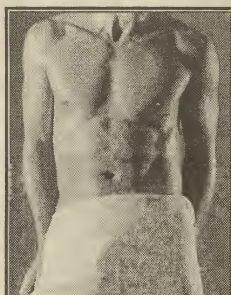
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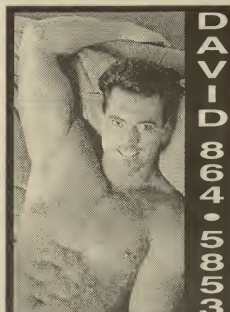
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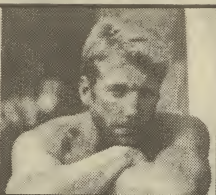
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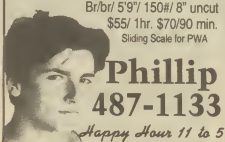
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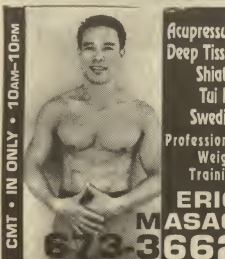
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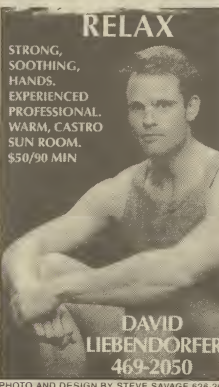
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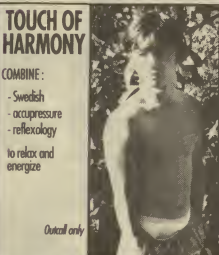
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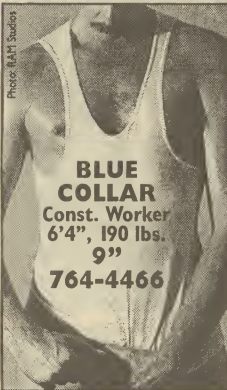
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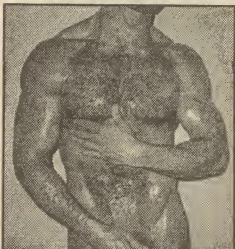
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S/M SENSUALITY
-long, & slow- my specialty.
6'2", 185, strong, gymtuned
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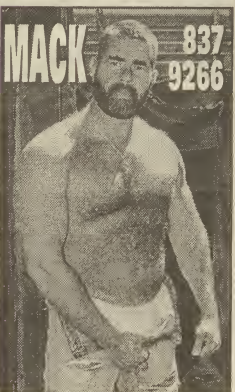


(415) 546-7664



Riff

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Pgr (415) 698-4813

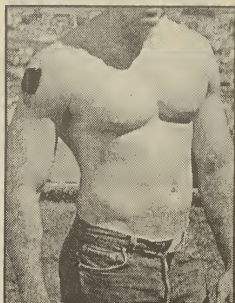


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Uncut ★ Dominate ★ Br/Br
29 yo • Tight Smooth Body
• Friendly & Discreet •
Huge Tool with Great Hands
• 4 Awesome Encounter •
Kyle \$85
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6'2", 220 lbs. Fierce Legs & Butt
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Young-Handsome-Friendly
Passionate-Versatile-Safe
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DUO**
Chris: All-American, 23 y/o
Blonde, Blue, Tan, Defined.
Alex: Dark Italian, 25 y/o
Long Blk Hair, Green Eyes

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Show&Tell - New Ad!!! Ready,
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Experience the Total Package.
Nice Body & Great Personality.
Dominant Top. Available 24 Hrs.
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LOTS OF ROPE
PLENTY OF TIME
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I Command Attention
STUD SERVICE
Versatile Angel w/a Dark Side
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JOCK**

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Tan Bubble Butt \$100.00
Will travel 415-997-7172, Mark

MARCO

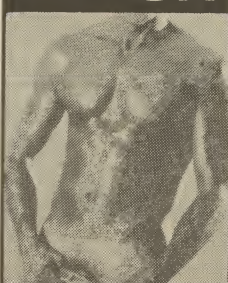


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21 year olds
New!
\$60 Out-In
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Smooth Call Steve
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Style Session Lean Hung
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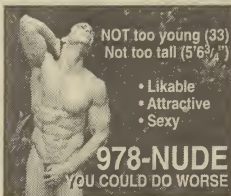
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Experienced Affection
It's About You! 709-0403

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21 yo, Preppy, 8", Cute, Fun,
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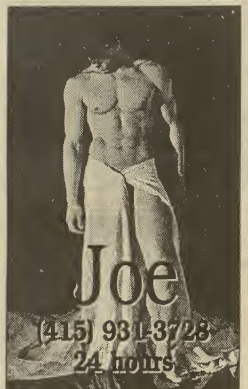
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T.J.=Hot bdyke w/strap-on
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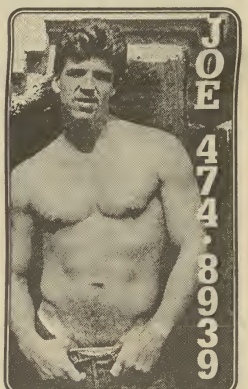
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is eager to please
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HOT, FUN, ALWAYS
HARD!

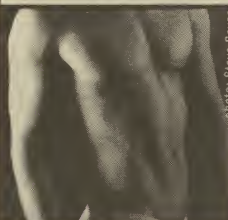


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FRIENDLY
Cute, Bright, Sincere
25 y/o Providing Intimacy
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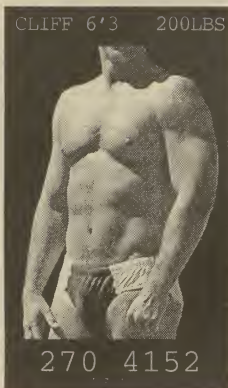
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6'1", 50" Ch, 20" A
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From Italy
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Italian, Hairy. Call Chris
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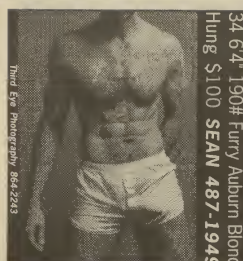
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22 yo WM 6'2" 175 Lbs 7" cut
Vers. Top Affection
Friendly. \$100 Out
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Extremely Handsome Blond
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Body, Sincere. Brn/Gm. Mature

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70-100 Out Byron Pgr 245-4325

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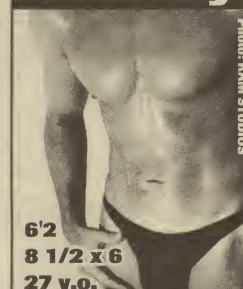
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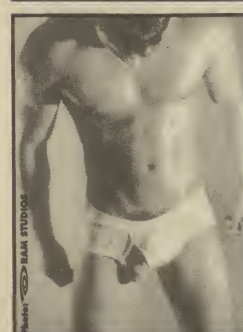
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Anthony



6'2
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27 y.o.

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Serving all bay areas



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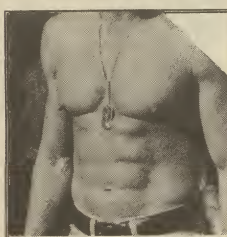
Joey

997-2807

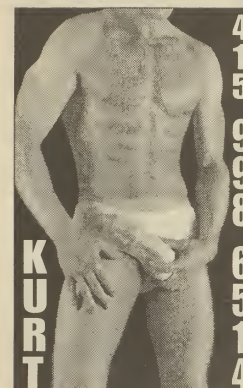
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My 4-Poster With Erotic
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